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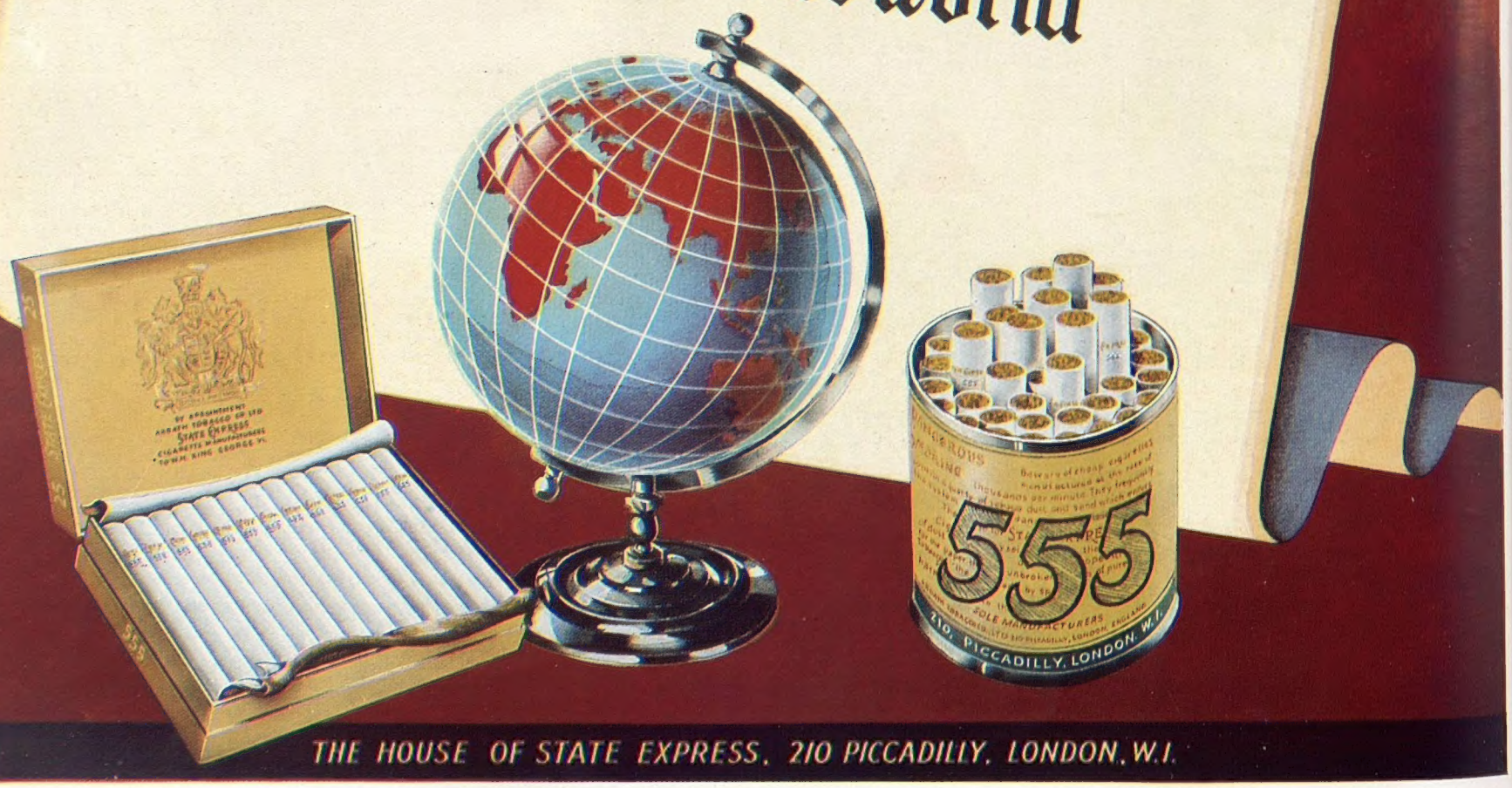

THE HOUSE OF STATE EXPRESS, 210 PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.1.

Volume CXCIX No. 2604 The SPHERE, London, December 31, 1949

The SPHERE
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE GRAPHIC"
THE EMPIRE'S ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

THE PEDALCOPTER SAILS INTO 1950—AS THE CENTURY OF FLYING PIONEERING NEARS ITS MIDWAY POINT, MR CHARLES PAUL CONFRONTS AN ASTONISHED WORLD WITH HIS BICYCLE-OPERATED BALLOON: The inventor in his strange craft flying above Lakehurst, New Jersey. **(A detailed description appears on page 493)**

The Wright Brothers made history at Daytona in 1903 by taking the first practical power-driven machine from the ground, Blériot flew the Channel before the First World War, and countless heroes have made the first half of the century an age of spectacular advance in the field of flying, so that to-day speeds of 600 m.p.h. and 100-passenger machines are practical propositions in civil aviation. Hence the irony of it all, as 1949 glides into 1950 Mr. Charles Paul, an attorney attached to the United States Navy, introduces his pedalcopter. This balloon surges forward at a steady 10 m.p.h. as Mr. Paul operates the pedals beneath his stranger-than-fiction craft. From Leonardo da Vinci to Jules Verne these sort of things have entered men's minds, and now in 1950 Mr. Paul, forgetting the Spitfires, the Hurricanes, the Tempests, the Meteors, the Lightnings and the Shooting Stars, has penetrated the past at a moment when an all-too-hurried world is thinking in terms of ever greater speeds and, indeed, of the annihilation of space.

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A LONDON NEWSLETTER

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

1950.—A happy New Year. Hope is still not taxed and good wishes are not quite out of fashion. 1950 is the last year of the first half of what has been called *this horrible century*. And rightly so-called. In our history there have been other dark centuries and dark ages; long wars, plagues, starvation and misery and oppression. But the whole argument on which a civilisation is based is that horrible centuries or eras should grow fewer as that civilisation grows older. It should march to the light and away from the dark ages. What has this century contained? After a brief curtain-raiser of unparalleled selfishness, snobbery, showmanship and myopia, the curtain rose on a tragedy for humanity which has pushed the old Greek tragedies into the realm of comedy. Two world wars, two monster revolutions, mass-murder continuous and on the grand scale, brutality and injustice, starvation, eviction, torture of mind and body, slavery and misery for millions, an orgy of iconoclasm, an orgy of ideology, fifty years of mass suicide and lunacy. Set against that synopsis of the drama . . . "a great number of workers are far better off than ever before." Are they? If so, it has required a major operation to remove a corn. If our civilisation is still marching to the light, it has used an expensive procedure to attain its advances. And we are not yet half through this century of Grace.

Half-way.—If the second half is left to compete with the first half, if the last acts of the tragedy keep up the tension, I think the curtain will fall on a dead civilisation before a Cave-man audience in a pitch-dark auditorium. But the light begins to creep back each January, new hopes are born each New Year, and Man is a resilient animal. He has a mind, if only he might use it. He is sociable, if only he might make contact with his neighbour. He would be thankful to sleep quiet of nights, if only he could achieve a compact with the other cave-dwellers to outlaw night marauding. Why can't he make contact and compact? Science has given him wonderful facilities in the air and through the air. And these facilities but worse confound his confusion. They are vehicles of hate, instruments of insult, salt rubbed into running sores. What shall I wish humanity, groaning in the darkness, during the coming year? I will wish it a miracle—that men should find again some way of using their minds not by surrender of individuality, but by co-operation with their fellow sufferers, so that the will to peace and understanding, which is common to all, will be as the trickles of clear spring water which make a mighty river, and that that river will one day reach a calm and clear Pacific. It is a New Year wish for our posterity for their prosperity.

Shinwell's Great Thought.

—Great minds think alike. Mr. Shinwell and I are as one. The Minister for War let fall to Northumberland miners last week a *great thought*. Nothing odd in that. Ministers, like other men, sometimes give birth to great thoughts, and when they do, they are seldom selfish enough to keep them to themselves. They discharge them on the first available audience, and the local reporter does the rest. This was Mr. Shinwell's last pearl of wisdom in 1949: "It is time for the Great Powers, the U.S., Soviet Russia and this country, with France and the Commonwealth, to get together and say: 'Whatever happens, we are going to settle our disputes by arbitration and peaceful means, and let's have no more nonsense.'" It is odd that nobody has thought of that one before. Mr. Shinwell himself thought it odd that it should be left to a War Minister to think of it first. It is an absolutely uncontrovertible truth. You can't find a flaw in it. It only remains to get busy on it and ensure that we have *no more nonsense*. Meanwhile . . . ? Meanwhile, we have, on Mr. Shinwell's admission, a Secretary for War who did not want the job, whose heart is not in the job, who got the job as a result of a Government shuffle. That, too, if you come to think of it, is odd. But now, with the birth of Mr. S.'s great idea, it won't much matter. Curiouser and curiouser! Even that is not the end of the oddity suggested by Mr. Shinwell's great thought. It is odd, too, that for generations it has been accepted that no technical or educational qualifications are required before a man can become a Minister of State. No man may mend your sink until he has passed a stiff plumbing apprenticeship. The village chemist must pass a series of examinations before he serves out your castor oil. Lawyers, doctors, dentists, nurses, vets are pretty exhaustively trained and educated to their professions. But a Minister of State can walk right in and administer a great department of State and give birth to great ideas, as he "learns while he earns."

Shooting the Organist.—

The recent debate in the Lords on the Groundnuts evoked a passage between Lords Salisbury and Addison which gave me the clearest hint out of many as to the present Government's genuine beliefs on the meaning of Parliament and the duty of an Opposition. Lord Salisbury, cataloguing without emphasis the meritorious career in journalism, and so forth, of the present keyman of the scheme under Mr. Strachey, doubted if that experience was sufficiently wide for the direction of an agricultural venture of the magnitude and type and conditions of the scheme. Lord Addison intervened to charge Lord Salisbury with malice. Lord Salisbury seemed surprised. What was Parliament *for*, if not to get at the truth, to ventilate facts, to try by all means to do the best for the country? The party system was not of Lord S.'s making. An Opposition has played its part in our politics and in government for centuries. Lord Addison, after this little passage of arms, clearly left the impression that the Labour Government quite genuinely denies this role of Parliament. It is not patriotic to shoot at the organist. The Government still accepts the *principle* of an Opposition of a sort, but patriotism demands a great curtailment of its functions to-day. The Socialist leaders do not insist on Slavish adulation of its measures by the Opposition when its schemes go right. Socialism knows how to blow its own trumpet without help. But, if things go awry, then clearly "in the interests of the nation as a whole," the Opposition must refrain from criticism and sniping, and Parliament must accept a muzzle. This view—which seems to be genuinely held by Lord A. — would have struck Mr. Gladstone as very odd.

Corfu Channel Judgment.

—As a result of a judgment by the International Court at The Hague, Britain was awarded £850,000 compensation from Albania. This little bill is now owing to us, to make good our loss of two destroyers and to defray compensation to the families of forty-four sailors killed and pensions for the wounded. It was not a greedy claim. It was accepted without cuts. I suppose the business of bill-discounting still flourishes. I wonder what these people would offer us for discounting the bill? 30 per cent., 20 per cent., 10 per cent.? I do not venture to put it higher. Have I put it too high? Time will presumably show; perhaps a very long time will pass before we are sure, before we know just precisely how much authority, backed by sanction, any single international and internationally-supported tribunal, old or new, possesses to-day. If this bill be discharged punctually, I shall throw my hat in the air—and eat it as it comes down. If it is never paid, the money we subscribe to the upkeep of international tribunals were better spent on tanks. We must follow Monte Cristo's philosophic rule: *Wait and hope.*

A Year's Broadcasting.—

I am as fitted to write on this theme as on the cinema's year, and that is quite definitely unfitted. I listen to the nine o'clock news, being beyond the range of evening papers. But even that boon is usually reduced by unquiet disturbances and fade-outs. And now and again I come in for bits and pieces of other features. Priestley is my wireless hero. He has the new technique at his tongue's end. He is as much a master of the art—which is the actor's art—as was the late Lord Ponsonby. Humanity has something to do with it. So I listened to all the Bicker-Blue Anchor Odyssey, and enjoyed it. The summing-up was clever enough, but (like all solutions to our modern problems) a little too obvious and simple for a hard-headed Yorkshireman's brass-tacks. "Go wash in Jordan seven times" is no good as a prescription without faith. And faith doesn't come at once when you turn the tap on. There is need of careful plumbing first. Bicker led me on to Handel. I listened because I had enjoyed the earlier Gilbert and Sullivan feature. But this was a muddy, muddled, boring imitation and highly irritating. Slick efforts to re-create the past are all too familiar in the B.B.C. programmes, and are no food for even semi-educated minds. And no donkey is so dead as the musical feuds of the first half of the eighteenth century before and after *The Beggar's Opera* burst on the town. Twenty Questions? Well, it's a majority verdict, and the minority can only bow to it and accept it. But some may feel that in 1949 the B.B.C. seemed to be somewhat bankrupt of recreational notions and sometimes rather trivial in its educational efforts.

Poacher Turns Gamekeeper.

—Southampton—an ingenious, progressive city—makes good citizens and takes civic profit from even its criminal population. It subscribes to the nursery saws—"bon rat, bon chat," "set a thief to catch a thief," etc.—and believes in making good use of pilferers. As a result of this policy—on which indeed the new Criminal Justice Act is based—Southampton's children's hospital does not endorse the Cardinal-Archbishop's curse on the jackdaw. Two of these birds in the Park's aviary collected 4,000 coins in the past year and hid them away. They were in as many currencies as the pirates' treasure in *Treasure Island*. The attendant collected the hoard, converted it into sterling and sent over £13 to the hospital. If this bright idea could be enlarged to cover the takings of human daws—the shoplifters, the railway thieves, the petty pilferers—we should come to view with greater tolerance the increase in crime. We should welcome the sorry annual statistics as a clear indication of another 1s. off income-tax in the next Budget. The trouble is that the human daw is a better "receiver" of stolen goods than his feathered counterpart. But Southampton deserves credit as a pioneer of a bright idea.

THE OLD STAGER

OSLO'S CHRISTMAS GIFT TO LONDON—THE SCENE IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE AS THE MINISTER OF WORKS FORMALLY RECEIVED THE GIFT FROM THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR: The tree, which is decorated with fairy lights, artificial snow and glittering stars, is to be illuminated every night until Twelfth Night. The illuminations are taking place between 5.30 and 11 every night, and the fountains are being floodlit during the same hours. This New Year's Eve the illuminations continue until 12.15 a.m. Each evening during Christmas week there was carol-singing round the tree. This is the third year in succession that the Norwegian Christmas tree has added to the gaiety of London at Christmas time, a symbol at once of Norwegian goodwill and a reminder of Norway's co-operation in the years of peril

THE FINANCE MINISTERS OF THE ATLANTIC PACT COUNTRIES MEET IN PARIS : The Ministers gathered in the French Finance Ministry for the start of their talks, which are directed towards the formation of closer ties in international banking. Sir Stafford Cripps is seen on the right near the centre of the table. In the foreground are the representatives of the Netherlands and Portugal

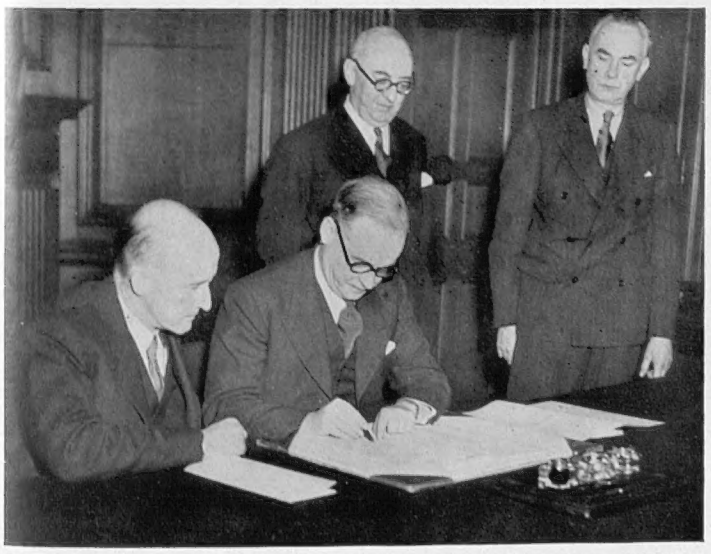
THE WORLD DRAWS TOGETHER

Pre-Christmas Conferences in Paris, Stockholm and London

On the verge of 1950, the beginning of what some people choose to call the second half of the century, signs are not wanting that the world has the will to draw together. Even if the Communist East and the non-Communist West remain at loggerheads, the spirit of co-operation is in the air. The meetings of the Atlantic Pact Finance Ministers in Paris to strengthen the banking ties of the Brussels Treaty Powers, whose work goes steadily ahead month after month, and the Stockholm talks, in which Britons and Scandinavians seek to break down the barriers of trade in a currency-blocked world, are among the promising signs of the times.

MINISTERS AT THE STOCKHOLM TALKS : Sir Henry Wilson Smith, head of the United Kingdom delegation, and Dag Harramrskjold, head of the Swedish delegation, at the "Ukiskan" Conference at Government House, Stockholm. This series of preliminary conversations on closer economic collaboration ended just before Christmas. No definite agreement was reached, but a meeting for early in January has been fixed

THE BRUSSELS TREATY POWERS SIGN AN ARMED-FORCES AGREEMENT : Left to right are : M. Rene Massigli, the French Ambassador in London ; Mr. Ernest Bevin ; M. Andre Clasen, the Luxembourg Minister ; and Jonkheer E. Michiels van Verduynen, the Netherlands Ambassador. The fifth signatory was the Vicomte Obert de Thieusies, the Belgian Ambassador, and the Agreement was signed in the presence of Mr. E. Star Busmann, Secretary-General of the Brussels Treaty Permanent Commission, in whose archives the agreement has been deposited. The multilateral agreement lays down the status of members of the armed forces of the Brussels Treaty Powers, when they are stationed in the territory of any other one of them



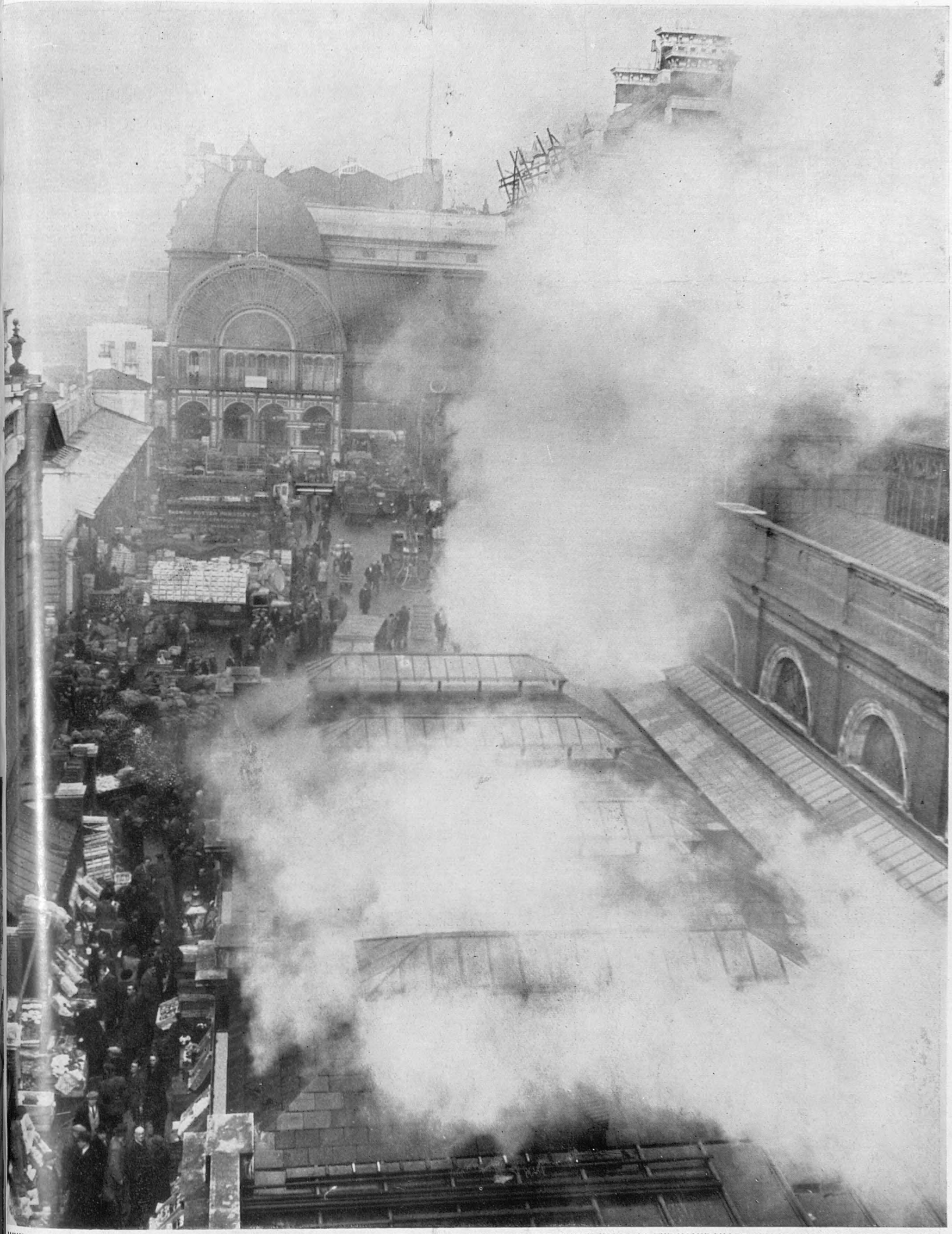
AN AIR-TRAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA : The Secretary of State for Air, the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, signs the Agreement in the Air Council Chamber at the Air Ministry. Beside him sits Mr. A. D. Chataway, M.B.E., Secretary to the Office of the High Commissioner of the Government of Southern Rhodesia, who signed the Southern Rhodesian Air-Training Agreement on behalf of the High Commissioner

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS FIRE AT COVENT GARDEN

DENSE VOLUMES OF SMOKE RISE FROM THE CELLARS OF THE FLORAL HALL : This Christmas fire at Covent Garden, which broke out in the cellars when business was at its height, proved one of the most difficult to deal with in recent years. During a thirty hours' fight against the flames one man lost his life and thirty-three firemen were detained in hospital. Altogether forty-two fire stations, mustering 700 men, were engaged

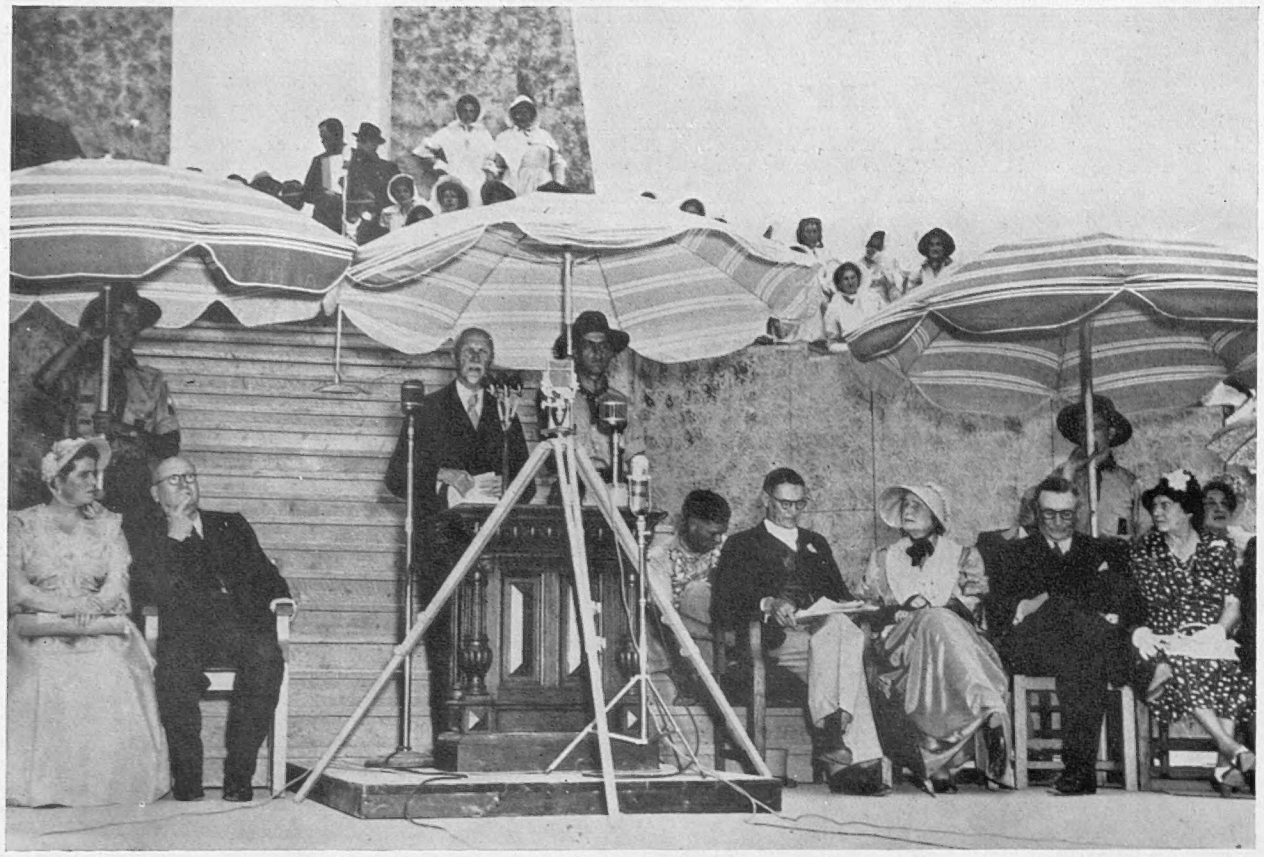
STATION OFFICER FISHER, OF WHITEFRIARS FIRE STATION, IS CARRIED UNCONSCIOUS FROM THE BURNING CELLARS OF COVENT GARDEN : Like many others, Station Officer Fisher was overcome by the dense fumes. He died on the way to hospital. Fisher was within a few weeks of completing twenty years' service with the force

BATTLING THROUGH THE WRECKAGE : Firemen in one of the cellars flooded by the hose water. They eventually quelled the outbreak after a fight lasting thirty hours



WHILE COVENT GARDEN ATTEMPTED TO CARRY ON ITS CHRISTMAS BUSINESS, FIREMEN STRUGGLED FOR THIRTY HOURS IN THE SMOKE-FILLED CELLARS BENEATH THE FLORAL HALL: Nine hours after the first teams had gone down into the basement the officer-in-charge temporarily ordered the withdrawal of all teams. There was so much smoke that the officers had little idea of where in the basement the worst points of the fire were. Later, ten relief crews went into action, and pneumatic drills broke up the asphalt flooring of the Floral Hall to help clear the dense smoke

With vast quantities of flowers and fruit pouring into London's central market for the festivities, fire broke out beneath the Floral Hall, giving the fire brigade its most onerous task for many a year. In successfully quelling the flames, which had proved so hard to track down, the brigade lost one man. Thirty-three men were detained in hospital, and when the rolls were finally checked it was expected that at least 100 men would have reported injuries. Some idea of the density of the smoke may be gauged from the fact that 150 cylinders of oxygen had to be brought into action. Sometimes as many as forty men were operating with hoses in the basement. They were roped together and to the exits by lifelines, and each time they came up grimy and wet from the inferno, relief crews went down to take their places. When the asphalt floor above the basement began to crack, owing to the heat from the flames, the fire brigade officers decided to bring in pneumatic drills. This allowed the men to force holes through the floor, the fire being tackled more readily and the smoke being allowed to drift upwards. Engineering departments of London boroughs hastily assembled men to work the compressors for the drills. The density of the smoke was caused in part by its concentration within the basement, and in part by the fact that much of the material in the basement was Christmas trees, which sent off a thick, black pungent smoke. It was surprising that the casualties were not higher.



250,000 PEOPLE at the VOORTREKKER MEMORIAL

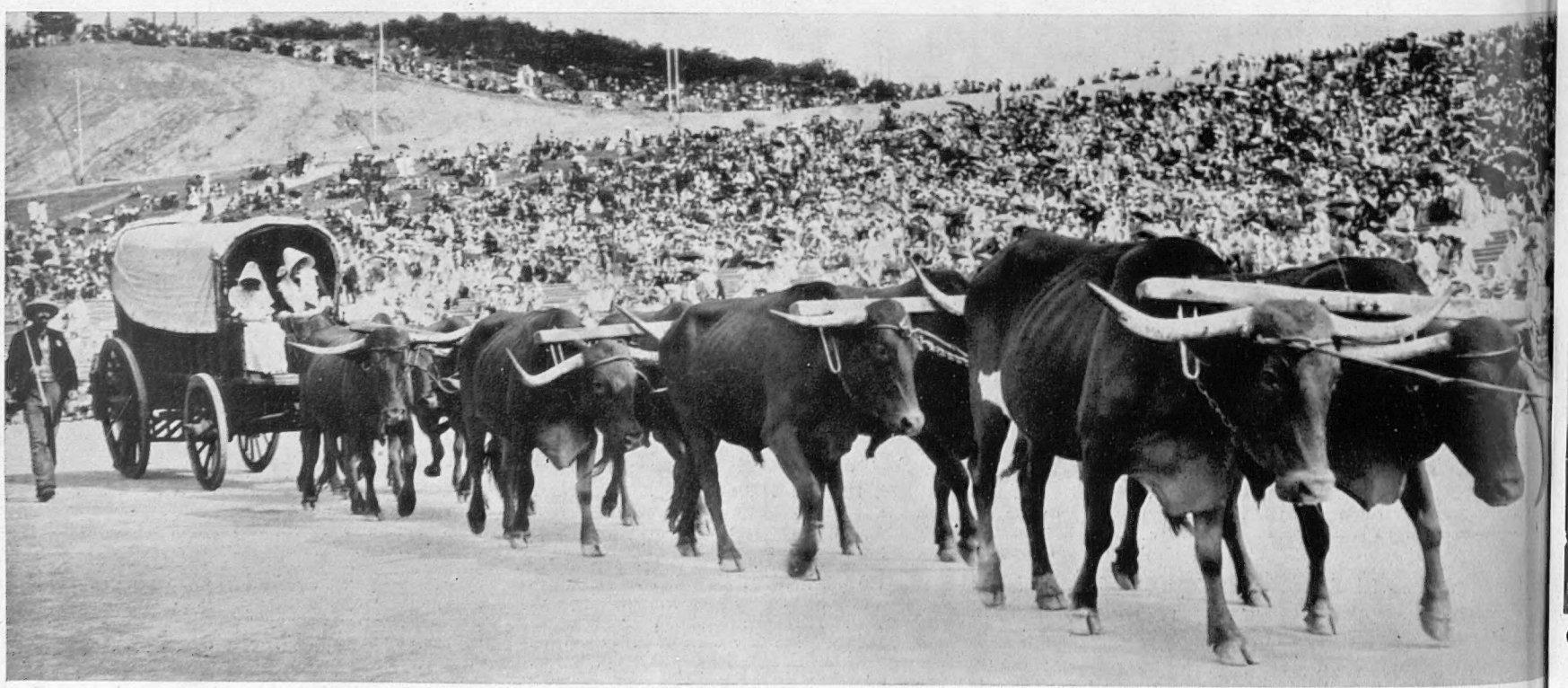
South Africa Commemorates the Great Trek

In 1806, the British knew that they had won the scramble for the Cape, the halfway house to India. From that year onwards it seemed certain that the Boer settlers would attempt to escape from British rule, and so it came to pass in 1836 that the great breakaway began. Before 1850 no fewer than 10,000 Boers had set out for the promised land beyond the Orange River and the Vaal. They made their way by ox-waggon across the trackless veldt, and under their early leaders, Piet Retief and Andries Pretorious, they braved the perils of the unknown hinterland. A people "brave, patient and industrious, orderly and religious," to use the words of Sir Benjamin D'Urban, "sundered themselves from the other white race in South Africa" and carved for themselves new Republics to the north. To celebrate the achievements of the Voortrekkers, South Africa has erected a vast granite memorial in the hills above Pretoria, and the gathering at that memorial on Dingaan's Day, December 16, was one of the most memorable in South African history. It was estimated that 250,000 people assembled for the inauguration ceremonies, to hear the leaders of the nation praise the Voortrekker spirit.

GENERAL SMUTS SPEAKS AT THE FOOT OF THE VOORTREKKER MEMORIAL : The leader of the South African Opposition addressing the gathering of 250,000 at the inauguration of the monument near Pretoria to the Boers who made the Great Trek across the Vaal and Orange Rivers to found the Republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The ceremony took place on December 16, Dingaan's Day, when the South Africans celebrate the defeat of the Zulus. Seated on the left is Prime Minister Malan

MEMBERS OF THE PRETORIA WOMEN'S CHOIR, DRESSED IN THE COSTUMES OF THE VOORTREKKER DAYS, TAKING PART IN THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY : This choral music preceded the main address by Dr. Malan, the South African Prime Minister, and the opening of the doors of the Voortrekker Monument by twelve boys and girls in Voortrekker costume

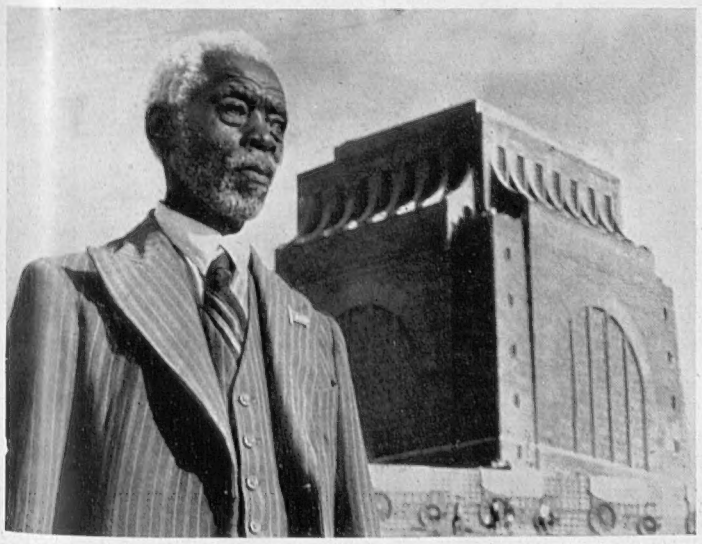
ALL MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN WHO ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION AT PRETORIA : They are the members of the Brink family, and came from Middleburg, Transvaal, for the great occasion, which attracted a total of 250,000 people. Two of old Mr. Brink's sons had grown massive beards especially for the occasion. Mr. Brink's beard dates from the days when Paul Kruger was the President of the Republic of the Transvaal



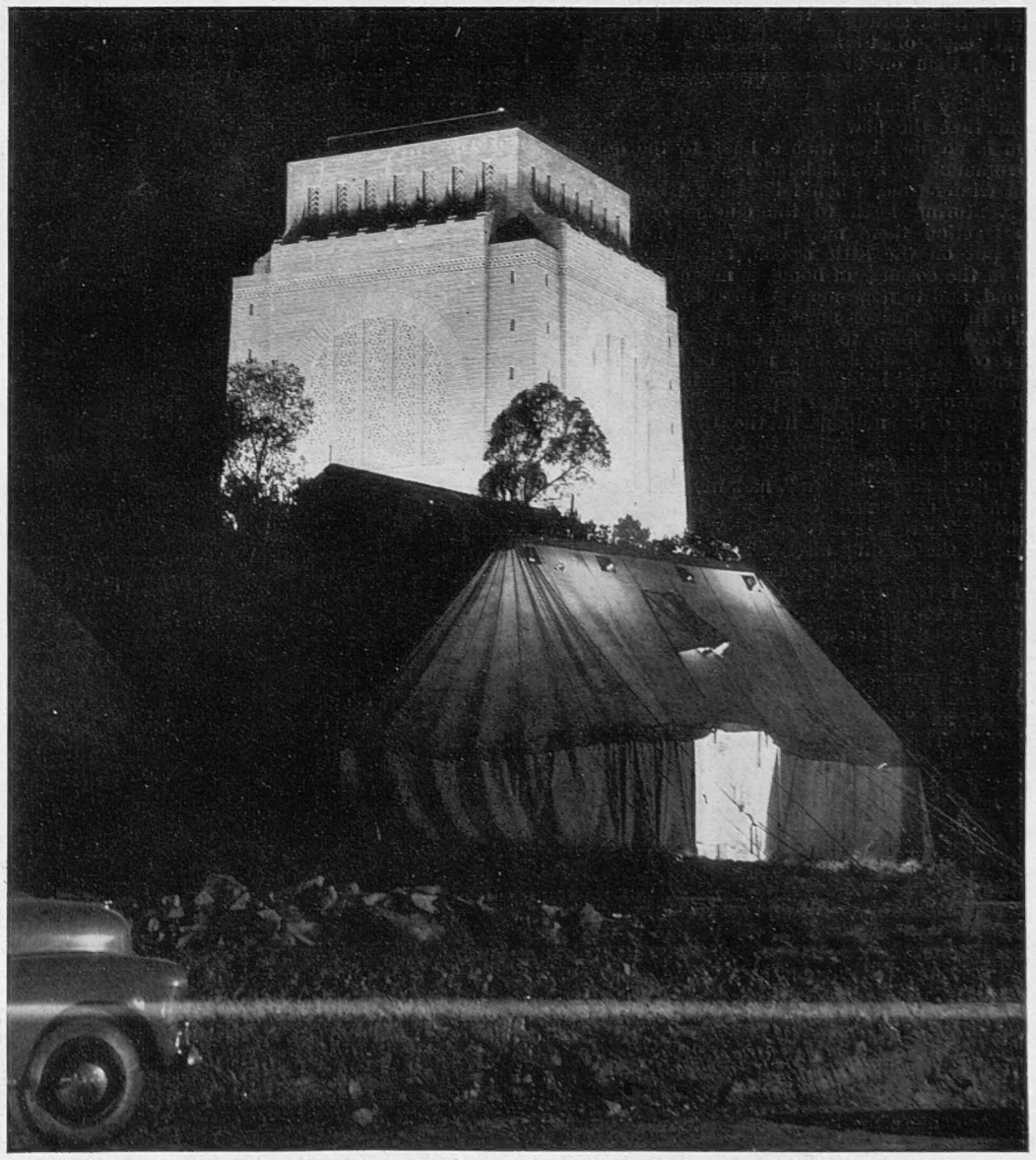
A COVERED WAGGON ARRIVES IN THE VAST AMPHITHEATRE BELOW THE VOORTREKKER MEMORIAL : Many people attending the festivities at Pretoria came in these ancient waggons from their farms in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. They outspanned near the memorial, and on the night before Dingaan's Day a vast camp came into being

A TENTH OF THE WHITE POPULATION OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA GATHERED ON THE HILL BENEATH THE GRANITE MEMORIAL TO THE VOORTREKKERS: Never in South African history has there been such a gathering as there was on Dingaan's Day, when Dr. Malan, Prime Minister of the Union, General Smuts, and other leaders led the ceremonies of dedication. Perhaps the greatest speech came from Mr. Justice Thompson, whose great-grandfather was an 1820 Memorial Settler. Deafening cheers greeted his call for understanding between those of British and Afrikaans descent. The speech was in marked contrast to Dr. Malan's supremely materialistic utterances

DR. MALAN DELIVERS HIS ADDRESS: The Prime Minister speaking at the inauguration. He talked of the Voortrekker spirit and ideals, which, he said, were once again being looked down upon by the world



OLD JACOB, FORMER COACH-DRIVER TO PRESIDENT KRUGER, ATTENDED THE PRETORIA INAUGURATION: Jacob, who is now eighty-five, says his father sold him to the President of the Transvaal when he was sixteen years of age. Jacob stayed with Kruger until the aged President left the country for Holland, a fugitive



THE ENCAMPMENT BENEATH THE GRANITE MEMORIAL: One of the tents set up on the hillside near the floodlit monument. Tens of thousands of South Africans slept beneath the stars, and they awoke at dawn on Dingaan's Day as the guns fired the first salutes to mark the great occasion

VIDEO'S AMERICAN ONRUSH

How Television has Swept Across the Continent

By FERDINAND TUOHY

PURSUIT of a higher "standard of living" could be described as striving for a state of material well-being which must not be shared with the foreigner if by so doing the tempo is at all slowed up. We have high priests and priestesses who can weigh it for us in calories, bricks and things.

The "standard of happiness" is a more elusive bird. It doesn't by any means seem to follow directly in the wake of a mounting standard of living. The United States is the best example of this. Enamoured of technology, seizing child-like upon every novelty, Americans never stop to think of the fresh complications they may be visiting on themselves.

With a reckless abandon—or wild savour of living—they put each invention at once to use without considering the effects it may have on the structure of society, or analysing the experience of living with it.

Any other attitude would be called anti-progressive, timid. Where should we be if, by questioning, we had sown *disincentives* to invention during the last fifty years? Where indeed?

The most recent instance of this American *diable au corps* for anything with a "gadgetry" angle had to do with the sudden sweep of "video," or television, across the majority of the States about a year ago. Here was a scrumptious new toy indeed! The Americans talked of little else but the "miracle" which speeded up their lives to the last split second.

That it might also mean a domestic revolution was hardly given a thought. Since then, it has been possible to disentangle some of the effects of "video's" onrush.

The first thing it did was to put people still more "in the red" from the hire-purchase system, as sets were snapped up, but Americans are so used to this that they hardly look upon it any longer as a drag.

Started the "honeymoon period" when small regional transmitting stations sprang up, first east of the Mississippi, then on to the Coast.

It quickly became apparent that the new medium is nothing less than a boon to the outlying little communities and isolated homesteads, particularly in winter-time, when folks have thought twice about venturing forth to the cinema or whatever local attraction there may be. Any kind of show that is put on the little screen, and which can be viewed in the cosiness of home, is manna to the back of beyond, and to none more so than to old people.

It is in the urban areas that television will be judged for its effects for good or ill; *ergo*, the more urban a country, the greater must be the impact of TV upon its social habits. There are indications that it is becoming a consuming passion here, as it has fastened itself on millions in the United States, in which event Britain stands to be ultimately more swayed even than America.

Very soon after "video" had invaded American homes in the cities and towns, new influences began to be felt. There was a tendency for more people to go home in the evening after their work, and to stay there. Least inclined to follow the new trend have been those between sixteen and thirty-five years of age. Teen-agers and their immediate seniors still prefer to go dancing or to a movie to sitting at home and viewing.

But the cinemas have taken a distinct knock, and so has sound broadcasting, each of which are apt to be treated as "dead ducks" compared with the "miracle." The theatre has also suffered. Here we come up with yet one more instance of the economic ills arising from invention. "Video" has created unemployment in the United States, and will inevitably cause more as time goes on, and the viewing really does become nation-wide—in every corner near and far.

Why should people sally forth and pay a high price to watch touring companies when they can stop at home and watch dramas being acted for their special benefit, as it were; when they can stretch in comfort before a *Winslow Boy*, much too miniature though he at present is for at least one person?

By the same token, "video" dealt Hollywood a body-blow, with resultant heavy dislocation of that major industry. Not that Hollywood hadn't asked for it. As we examine the effects of TV at this early stage, the story alternates between "for" and "against."

Writing some while back from New York, Mr. Val Gielgud gave it as his opinion that television had "swept through the fetid air of the [film] studios with something of the effect of a cleansing wind. It has brought with it new problems to solve; a new demand for original ideas; a new lease of life for actors and directors."

But if "video" may squeeze better films out of Hollywood, not so surely will it win through itself. Sponsors and agencies have rushed in on it, and the squeaking little singers of "commercials" now exploit their visible charms. In America, "video" has picked up where radio left off, and the former's possible effect on the viewer is so much greater in proportion, than is that of broadcasting, on the listener, that the risk of vulgarising corruption on the largest scale is frightening.

A risk of a different kind is of an increase in gambling. When a man can see "his" race being run before his eyes, obviously he is tempted to stake more frequently, and to make devotees among his friends. This has happened to such an extent in America, that many bars now no longer have "video" sets. Their proprietors found that customers trooped in all day long to watch sporting features and hardly drank a thing. (Which way does this work—for good or ill?)

At present sports promoters in this country are as unwilling to have their stock-in-trade televised, as are theatrical managers and the cinema interests, but for a long time there was a similar attitude towards the broadcasting of racing and other sporting features. The time may well come when every sport lending itself to betting, will be televised for the man in a pub.

Some of the effects of "video" on the mass American mind have been disconcerting. The average American no longer reads the newspapers as he used to do. At least, their size gave him a calming indigestion. Nor do Americans visit their excellent newsreel theatres, as they formerly did. Their drop in income is as high as a quarter, and the fall continues.

Instead, U.S. citizens are increasingly inclined to take their information from television and radio. The pair fits in with their mania for snatching at news and views as they travel faster, faster, through each day.

Americans now say of a book or an event, "But I know all about that. I saw it on 'video.'" Book-reading has been one of the major casualties. After all, most reading was done at home, and why read when you can *see*? Authors still have vast sales in America; nevertheless, a decline in general reading is signalled.

The twentieth century has been helped and injured by broadcasting and the talkies. So it looks like being, too, by television. One hears glib talk about the latter promoting a stronger home life, of the little screen in the living-room countering the attractions of the local cinema and the "local." Yet does this stay-at-homeness infallibly operate for the better?

One seems to have heard that the pub was the working-man's club, as it also is the least classless of contemporary haunts. Will it necessarily be a good thing if the pub gets emptier and emptier, and dad and sonny flop into easy chairs at home and take their nightly TV much as a narcotic? The little screen must induce an even greater passivity in the matter of entertainment, as it has done across the ocean.

While to the growing uniformity of speech and of thinking, which broadcasting has engendered, may be added uniformity of gesture copied from television.

Then there are the conversation-killing properties of our "miracle." If radio made inroads on family conversation, "video" in America put the finishing touches. Just as soon as the evening meal is over the room is darkened and the family sits down to watch a fight, or a televised "commercial" advertising this and that. They sit in silence, glued to the little screen—and over there programmes occupy far more time than Britain's present one-and-a-half hours each evening.

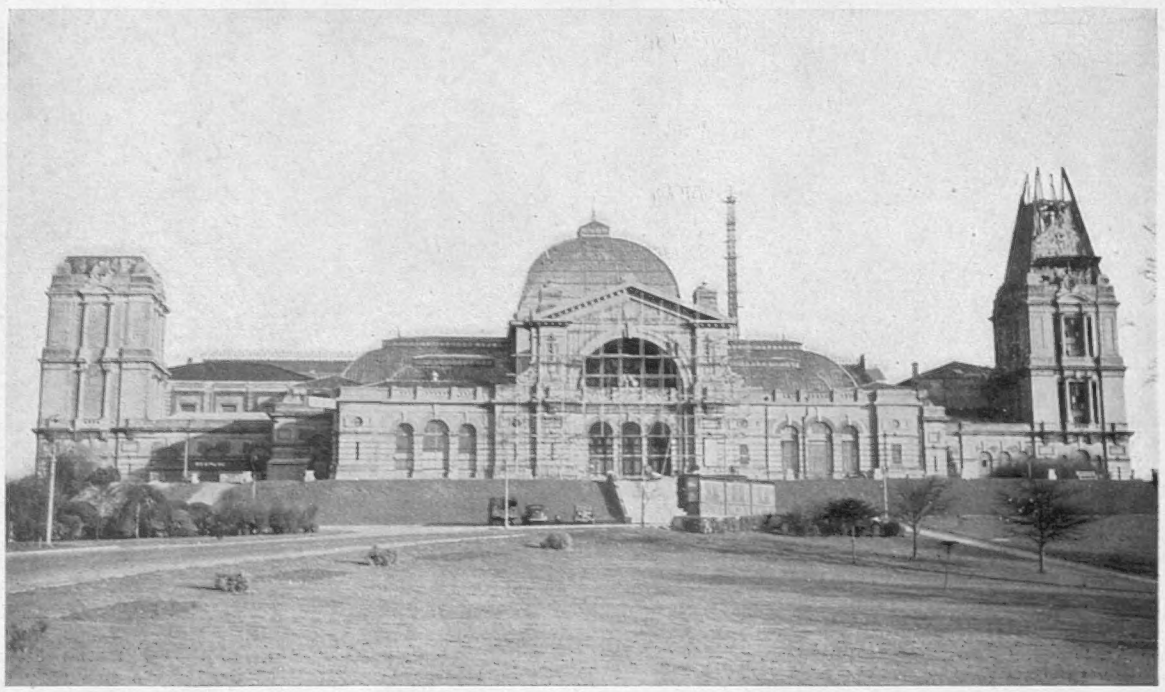
Sometimes hilarity may enter into such reunions when "video" is served with drinks, which are placed beside one on the floor, in the darkness. But such occasions are the exception. Visits to American homes will resolve themselves into an after-dinner "Shall we view?" or words to that effect, and the rest is distinctly on the silent side.

As for American children, who are systematically kept up too late and allowed to do what comes into their heads, they have fallen for "video" in a big way. And not for any Children's Hour stuff, either, such as will shortly be shown here. American children demand Western thrillers. Not only will they not go to bed until they see one: they refuse to eat unless they can watch a thriller being televised during the meal.

Another "video" development has to do with the eyes: an over-dosage of viewing is seriously weakening many person's eyesight. Special TV glasses have been tried, but without much avail.

Well, we have been warned.

For my part, I should like to be here for "theatre television," liking to take my pleasures as much as possible in public. This involves the instantaneous presentation of televised images on the large screen of a theatre. Precisely the newsreel theatres which have been so badly hit, are the pre-ordained agencies for showing major events on the screen at the same time as these events are received on the sets in homes and bars. The equipment is available in America, but it is very expensive, and there are not enough programmes yet to make it pay.



THE CHANGING FACE OF ALEXANDRA PALACE: The headquarters of television as it is to-day with its second tower in course of dismantlement, as it is now deemed to be unsafe. Alexandra Palace was opened in 1875, serving as the Crystal Palace of North London. It has enjoyed a new fame in recent years as the headquarters of television, its elevated position being well suited to visual broadcasting. The television transmitter aerial is seen in the background of this picture

STUNTED "ALLY PALLY": The half-demolished tower of Alexandra Palace. It is being taken away because of its unsafe condition. The B.B.C. opened their television studios at Alexandra Palace in 1936. The transmitter aerial, 220 ft. high, was added to the north-east tower. The television programmes transmitted from Alexandra Palace are now available to listeners in the Midlands through the new station at Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, which takes its programmes direct from the North London studio. Viewers in the Midlands get exactly the same service, and, if anything, the definition is rather better than Alexandra Palace has been able to provide

THE PEDALCOPTER SAILS INTO 1950

The Pilot Supplies the Power

MR. PAUL TAKES OFF IN HIS PEDALCOPTER FROM THE AIRFIELD AT LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY : As 1949 merges into 1950 and we reach the midway mark in the twentieth century, the pedalcopter makes its bow and for one brief moment we are reminded of the pioneering years of aviation in Victorian and Edwardian times. Mr. Paul's pedalcopter has no engine. It consists of a 24-ft. balloon with a seat, a steel framework, for hanging ballast, and bicycle pedal gear mounted below it. The pedal gear operates the twin blades below the pilot and apparently the same central shafting also makes the balloon rotate. Trials at Lakehurst, New Jersey, have proved satisfactory, and Mr. Paul has succeeded in making the pedalcopter travel forward at a speed of just over 10 m.p.h.

HE CALLS IT THE SAFEST FLYING MACHINE IMAGINABLE : Mr. Charles Paul, an attorney attached to the United States Navy, seated in his pedalcopter, a unique type of aircraft, which is wholly operated by bicycle gears

FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR A TRIAL FLIGHT : Mr. Charles Paul, inventor of the pedalcopter, looking over the bicycle mechanism of his machine. To build this unique aircraft in his spare time Mr. Paul purchased 400 dollars' worth of bicycle parts. Hanging from the framework are the main ballast-bags

MR. PAUL FLYING AT 10 M.P.H. AT A HEIGHT OF 100 FT. : One of the ballast bags has been dropped in order to take the helium-filled balloon off the ground. Mr. Paul says the pedalcopter is absolutely safe, and doubtless construction of a model with a cockpit is now contemplated

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GOLDEN STATUES PROVIDE A SPECTACULAR MOMENT AT THE CIRCUS: These sculpturesque figures, seemingly sheathed in gleaming metal, provide one of the big moments in this year's show at Olympia, which is more cosmopolitan than ever

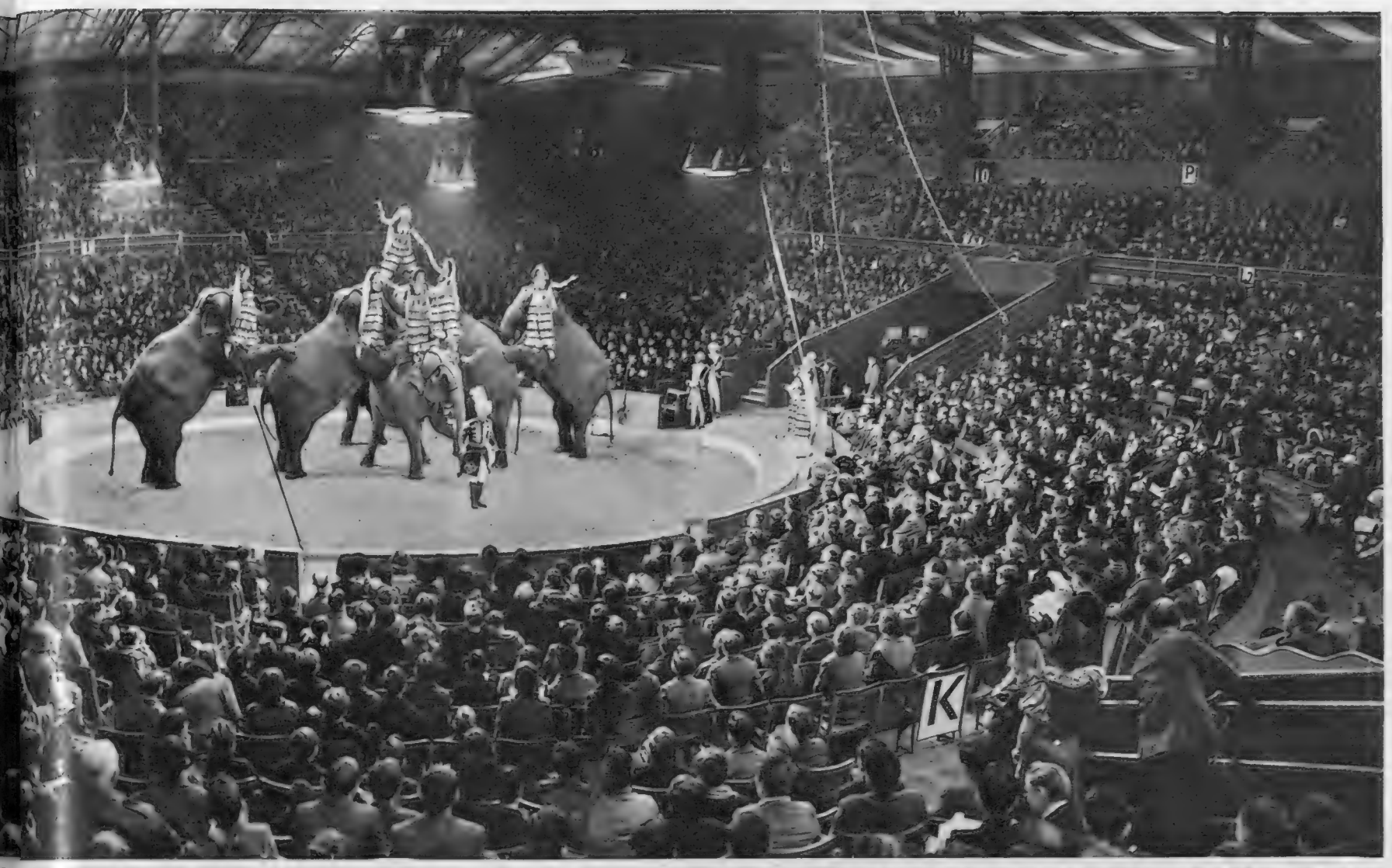
SIX THOUSAND CHILDREN FROM LONDON AND THE HOME COUNTIES WATCHING THE GREAT ELEPHANT ACT: This was the scene beneath the "Big Top" as John Gindl presented his troupe of elephants. The six elephants give a ballet performance

THRILLS of the CHRISTMAS CIRCUS

Young Londoners Enjoy the Annual Show at Olympia

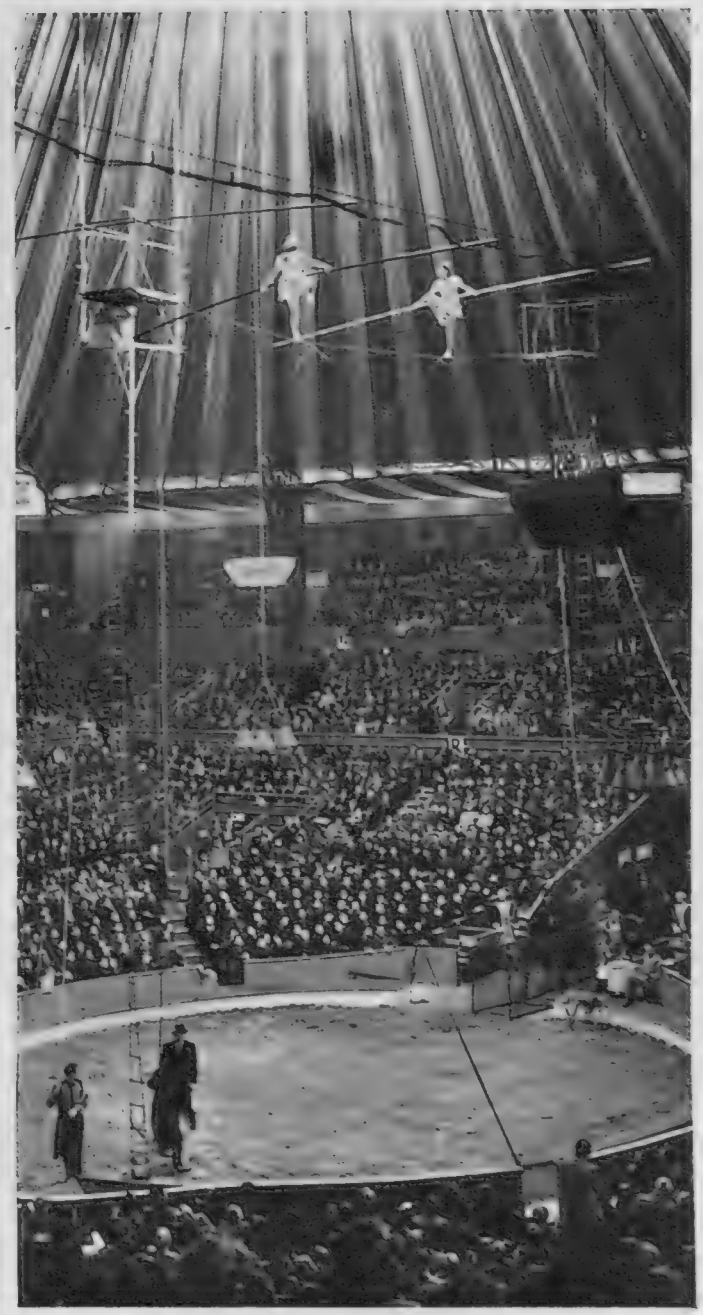
In terms of nationality, the dressing-rooms behind the "Big Top" at Olympia sound like a miniature Babel. A dozen different languages are spoken there, for, as ever, Mr. Cyril Mills has ranged far and wide for the Christmas entertainment which he and his brother are once again presenting to Londoners. There are eight new turns this year, including the polar bears from Sweden, the sea-lions from Switzerland, and the six "Zeeland" horses from Holland. The public opening of the circus took place just before Christmas.

RHODIN'S POLAR BEARS AND MISS HELLA'S SEA-LIONS ARE TWO OTHER BIG ATTRACTIONS: John Steinhoff is presenting the polar bears for the first time at Olympia. Steinhoff, who did his early training with Carl Hagenbeck, has hunted wild animals in Africa and India and has performed with these polar bears in all parts of the world. The sea-lions are also a new act, one of the eight booked by Mr. Cyril Mills during his travels in Europe and America between April and September 1949



CHARIVARI—THE EVER-POPULAR CLOWNS WHO ARE PROVIDING THE FUN AND FRIVOLITY DURING THE BRIEF MOMENTS BETWEEN THE ANIMAL ACTS : Colourful costumes, big boots, knobbly noses, sequins and spangles bring gaiety in the traditional manner to Olympia's sawdust ring. It is their verve that gives the circus its pace as an entertainment, knitting together the series of special acts

THE ORIENTAL GRACE OF THE LAIFOUN-MOYLONG TROUPE : This troupe consists of ten performers made up of three well-known Chinese acts specialising in juggling and balancing. Here they are engaged on their plate-whirling, which precedes some spectacular feats as the performance gathers pace



THE HIGH-WIRE ACT OF THE GREAT ARTUROS : The members of the Arturo family hail originally from Austria, but they have settled for some time in the United States. Here they are, with balancing poles, advancing towards each other along the high wire, while the audience, spellbound, watches every move

THE WAY OF THE WORLD AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR

A Survey of Foreign News in Pictures

THE WINNER RELAXES AFTER THE FURY OF AUSTRALIA'S ELECTION BATTLE: Mr. R. G. Menzies, the new Australian Prime Minister, with Mrs. Menzies and his daughter Heather in the garden of their home shortly after the results of the General Election had been announced, giving the combined Liberal and Country Parties a clear majority over the Labour Party. Closer economic co-operation within the British Empire is one of Mr. Menzies' aims, and free enterprise within the Australian Commonwealth is to be allowed greater rein. Mr. Menzies declared after the poll: "The results of the election will be a great encouragement to my friends, the leaders of the Opposition, in England"

THE AGA KHAN IN ROME: The head of the Ismaili Muhammadans with the Begum Aga Khan outside the Excelsior Hotel on reaching Rome from Nice. Later they left Rome by plane for Pakistan. The Aga Khan and the Begum (his third wife, the former Yvette Larbousse) were married five years ago

AMERICA'S ONLY LIVING EX-PRESIDENT IN NEW YORK: Mr. Herbert Hoover, now in his seventy-sixth year, came over to New York from his home at Palo Alto, California, to receive a hand-illuminated scroll at the annual luncheon of the Salvation Army Association of New York at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. 1949 marked the seventieth anniversary of the Salvation Army organisation in the city. The scroll pays tribute to ex-President Hoover's "achievement in spiritual and humanitarian endeavours"

THE WEST GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC SIGNS ITS FIRST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT: Mr. John McCloy, United States High Commissioner in West Germany, speaking at the meeting in the old Chancery at Bonn, at which, with Dr. Adenauer (second from left), he signed the bilateral Treaty between the United States and the Federal Republic. The Treaty makes Germany a full partner in the European Recovery Programme. "This occasion," said Mr. McCloy, "marks not only a determined step forward in the emergence of a new Germany, but advances the cause of true European co-operation, the creation of which is one of the major goals in E.R.P." Dr. Adenauer's reply was in the same high strain

THE CRUISE OF "LES QUATRE VENTS": Thirty-year-old Marcel Bardiaux, a young adventurer from Clermont-Ferrand, in the heart of France, seen in his boat, "The Four Winds," near Alexandre III Bridge, Paris. He told the Press that he was en route to Havre, and at the start of 1950 planned to begin a 7,000-mile trip round the world in his home-made ship

MILAN IS STILL THE TRAINING-GROUND OF THE WORLD'S SINGERS: Lydia Testore, the noted woman composer, gives advice to a young American student singer, Stuart Yallin. Yallin attends lessons regularly at Lydia Testore's salon. On *right*—Giuseppe Taccani, the veteran Italian singer, who, at the age of seventy-two, still appears on Italian platforms and in operas, seen accompanying his tenor pupil, the young Canadian-Irishman Adam Gaw. Gaw has been studying music for the past year on a Canadian Veterans' grant. He has sung with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra

A BUMPER YEAR FOR KING COTTON : Scenes such as this are common in the yards of cotton firms in the South Plains of Texas, where thousands of bales of cotton are being stored in the open. An all-time record crop of over 1,000,000 bales was produced in the South Plains this year. In this yard, belonging to the West Texas Compress and Warehouse Company, there are 16,000 bales

INDONESIAN TROOPS ENTER BATAVIA, AND A TESTING-TIME BEGINS FOR THE NEW REPUBLIC OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA : Members of the Siliwangi Division of the Indonesian Army driving through the seaport city on arrival to take over from the Dutch. They will keep order in Batavia while the nation goes through the first phase of its change-over to independence under The Hague Agreement. A Dutch officer is seen walking beside the leading truck. The Dutch troops were confined to barracks when Indonesians celebrated the birth of their nation

A PRE-CHRISTMAS FROLIC IN THE STREETS OF BERLIN : Police and students in a good-humoured battle for an advertisement column uprooted by demonstrators in a Berlin street and carried before them in procession. The fun began in the Kurfurstendamm when about 3,000 people, for the most part students, took advantage of a meeting of Kunyites (followers of a harmless crank called Kuny, who believes himself to be the bringer of a new religion) to stage a Christmas-tide demonstration. The students shouted such slogans as "We want our master!" and "Kuny for free love!" In the end they became so obstreperous that thirty of them were taken into custody. It was noted, however, that the police behaved for the most part with marked restraint and good humour

IN WIESBADEN THERE WAS A PRE-CHRISTMAS DEMONSTRATION WITH LESS GOOD HUMOUR AND A PRONOUNCED POLITICAL BACKGROUND : This was part of the parade of 2,000 members of the V.V.N., the so-called organisation of Nazi Persecutees, which marched through the city to demand of the Government of Hesse the promise of repayment on property lost during the days of Nazi persecution. The demonstrators sang the "Internationale," and they were led by Emile Carlebach, a Communist editor. When the procession arrived at the Landtag building a delegation went in to see the Minister, and when it was found that he was not present an attempt was made to storm the doors. Police and less-excited members of the V.V.N., however, restrained the ringleaders

CHRISTIAN-ARAB AND MUSLIM WOMEN AND CHILDREN RETURN TO PALESTINE : Members of a family being escorted across the Israel-Lebanon border at Ras el Nakura after being given permission to return to their people in Acre. They had been separated from relatives since the Palestine fighting in 1948, and since then had lived in various parts of the Lebanon, for the most part in camps

ACRE GIVES A WELCOME TO THE REPATRIATES : This was the scene at the Acre Municipal Building as members of the Christian-Arab and Muslim communities came to greet their relatives repatriated from the Lebanon. Welcome slogans were to be seen everywhere in the town as the first seventy-three repatriates arrived, and they were told in a speech of welcome from the Mayor of Acre : "You will now find here a very different city." There were cries of "Thank the Lord!" from the repatriates, who remembered Acre in the days when Arab-Jewish fighting was at its height, and all Palestine was rent by the civil war

THE BASILICA OF ST. PETER'S—THE FOCAL-POINT OF THE HOLY YEAR WHICH OPENED ON CHRISTMAS EVE WHEN THE POPE, WITH THREE BLOWS OF A GOLDEN HAMMER, BEAT UPON THE HOLY DOOR OF ST. PETER'S: This picture was taken from one of the pilgrims' hostels now being constructed facing the Basilica

ROME and the VATICAN
AT THE START OF HOLY YEAR

On Christmas Eve Pope Pius declared the opening of the twenty-fifth Holy Year. All through 1949 the city of Rome and the Vatican have been preparing for this great event in the capital of Roman Catholic Christendom. Imposing buildings are going up in many parts of Rome, among them the Church of St. Eugene, a gift of the American people, which will be consecrated by the Pope in June, and also numerous hostels and hotels for the reception of the pilgrims. The big invasion of Rome is expected to start in April, and it is hoped that by then many of the buildings still surrounded by scaffolding will be ready for occupation. Each pilgrim will receive on arrival a package containing a prayer-book, an identification card, a guide-book, a badge and a medal. There are approximately 25,000 beds under Vatican control with a full pension charge of 23s.

THE WOODEN BOX IS REMOVED FROM THE HOLY DOOR OF ST. PETER'S AND IS EXAMINED BEFORE BEING SENT TO POPE PIUS XII: Vatican workers are seen (*left*) removing the box which was encased in the masonry of the great door to commemorate the reign of Pope Pius XI, creator of the Lateran Treaty, by which temporal power was restored to the Papacy and a Concordat established with the Italian Government. *Right*—The Papal Chamberlain examining the contents of the box. The box contained fifty-one medals, and a scroll of parchment recording the reign of Pius XI. 1949 marked the seventieth anniversary of the ordination of Pius XI

ROME'S NEW SUBWAY—ONE OF THE STATIONS ON THE UNDERGROUND SYSTEM WILL EMERGE BESIDE THE COLOSSEUM: Construction work on the subway will continue throughout the Holy Year, but there will be many improvements in the city's transportation during 1950, when Rome will probably be thronged as never before with pilgrims from every part of the world. The Colosseum was completed by Titus in A.D. 80. To mark the inauguration, 5,000 animals were killed and gladiatorial combats lasted 100 days

WHERE PILGRIMS FROM THE UNITED STATES WILL THRONG DURING THE ANNO SANCTO: *Left*—Workers carrying out repairs at the North American College in Rome in anticipation of the arrival of pilgrims from the New World. *Right*—The Church of St. Eugene, a gift of the American people, now under construction in the exclusive Parioli district of Rome, will be completed in June. The Pope will make one of his rare departures from the Vatican in order to consecrate the church

A GEM OF IBERIAN ARCHITECTURE : The Jerónimos Church on the western outskirts of Lisbon, on the road to Estoril. One of the most imposing buildings in the peninsula, it commemorates Vasco da Gama's discovery of the long-sought sea route to India

THE CASTELO DA PENA : This rather pretentious-looking building near Cintra was built for Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, consort of Maria II and cousin of Queen Victoria. It has been not inappropriately described as a sort of Portuguese Balmoral

PORTUGAL IN WINTER

The Charms of the Peninsula between October and May

THE CASINO AT ESTORIL : Estoril has for long been Portugal's most favoured winter resort partly because it is within very easy reach of Lisbon. Sun-bathing is possible there even in winter, while tennis, golf and riding are popular

PRAIA DA ROCHA : This is a resort on the Algarve coast for those winter visitors requiring something less sophisticated than Estoril. Its queerly-shaped rocks are an extraordinary natural feature

AS a holiday resort, Portugal is quite as pleasant in winter as it is in summer. Before World War II there was a steady flow of winter visitors, and October to May was known as the "*Epoca Inglesa*."

By air, the journey from London to Lisbon takes under six hours, and it is indeed a very pleasant experience to arrive in that picturesque city and find it basking in warm sunshine after a departure from London in fog and rain. Writers with a romantic slant often state that Lisbon, like Rome, is built on seven hills. The pedestrian in the Portuguese capital soon discovers that this description is a masterpiece of understatement and that the number of hills he has to climb is more like seventy-seven than seven. If any city deserves to be called the "City of Light" it is Lisbon, for its peculiar translucent atmosphere gives it a charm which is unique. The Portuguese are kindness personified, and the language obstacle is easily surmounted by smiles and gestures which prove quite efficient as a means of communication. Before going on to the seaside, visitors would do well to spend a few days in Lisbon in order to contact the Portuguese at work as well as at play, to visit the many interesting buildings in the capital, and to linger in the cafés where the *fados*—those curious melancholy and stirring songs peculiar to Portugal—are sung both by men and women to the accompaniment of guitars.

One of the most popular winter resorts is Estoril, the star turn of the Portuguese Riviera. It is only a few miles distant from Lisbon, with which it is connected by an excellent motor road and an extremely efficient electric railway. On the western outskirts of the capital, on the way to Estoril, stands the Jerónimos Church—one of the most imposing buildings in the whole of the Iberian Peninsula. The abbey and monastery—the latter has been converted into a museum and portions are also used as an orphanage—were erected at the end of the fifteenth century. The southern doorway is magnificently carved, and leads to what has been called "one of the most notable ecclesiastical structures in the world."

Out at Estoril travellers can lead exactly the kind of life they prefer. The usual pastimes are sun-bathing (yes, this can be done in midwinter, but care should be taken to put on a warm wrap before going into the shade), tennis, golf, riding, motoring and sea-fishing. It is easy to go haywire if one's inclinations are that way, for there are no licensing restrictions in Portugal. Estoril Casino has gaming tables, a cinema, a restaurant, a night club, several bars and a dance floor. It is also possible to sit quietly partaking of nothing stronger than tea while admiring the view. And it is indeed some view, for it embraces the hills and villages on the south side of the Tagus, the estuary of the river and, to the west, Cascais, the Great Yarmouth of Portugal, noted for its fish market.

People who prefer something less sophisticated than Estoril with its luxury villas and near-palaces usually opt for Praia da Rocha, on the coast of Algarve, in the extreme south of Portugal. And to make their £50 go as far as possible, the knowing ones travel by motor-bus instead of by train or private car. There are many bus routes serving even the most remote parts of the country, and the vehicles which link up Algarve Province with the capital are super-comfortable and spacious. One of the most interesting trips from Praia da Rocha is to Cape St. Vincent, on the outside edge of Europe, and in early spring, the whole of the south coast is riotously bright with almond blossom.

THE CITY OF LISBON FROM THE AIR : In the foreground is the imposing Praca de Comercio, a spacious square which is surrounded on three sides by handsome arcades, and on the fourth open to the River Tagus

THE ROCKS OF PRAIA DA ROCHA : These take on many curious shapes, giving the resort a character all its own

THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA, WHICH NOW STANDS OVER 16½ FT. OUT OF THE PERPENDICULAR, HAVING INCREASED ITS TILT BY A QUARTER-OF-AN-INCH IN THE PAST TWELVE YEARS: Beside the campanile is the celebrated marble cathedral, the roof of which was slightly damaged by shell-fire in 1943, but which has now been repaired. The Ministerial Commission responsible for the care of the Leaning Tower met last month, and it was then that the news became known that the tower had increased its tilt. The tower was begun in 1174 by the architects, Bonnanus of Pisa and William of Innsbruck, and was completed by Tommasso Pisano in 1350. It rises in eight stories. Galileo used the tower in making his experiments with regard to gravitation

NEWS OF PISA'S LEANING TOWER

It has Increased its Tilt by a Quarter-of-an-inch in the Last Twelve Years

PISA'S MARBLE CATHEDRAL AND ITS NEIGHBOURING LEANING TOWER: In the picture *on the right* the Cathedral is seen through one of the arcaded lower storeys of the tower. The Cathedral was built between 1063 and 1118, and was restored in the early seventeenth century after a disastrous fire. The Cathedral was begun after the great naval victory of the Pisans near Palermo, and belongs to the Tuscan Romanesque style. It was consecrated by Pope Gelasius II in 1118. The question whether the leaning tower's peculiarity was intentional or accidental has frequently been discussed, but it is now generally believed that the south side sank in the course of building

REDESIGNING THE HUB OF EMPIRE

The Lords Debate the Future of the Parliament Square Statues

Liveliness in the House of Commons is no rarity when we have such personalities as Mr. Churchill, Mr. Morrison and Mr. Bevan to lend colour to the cut-and-thrust of debate, but it is seldom that the Lords throw decorum to the winds in the best manner of Mr. Pickles. Just before Christmas they did indeed "have a go."

Over the question of redesigning Parliament Square, the hub of the Empire, their Lordships waxed heated and proved knowledgeable. One of the liveliest exchanges was between Lord Rea, who had the temerity to refer to the great Wilberforce as "Soapy Sam," and Lord Simon, who swiftly put him in his place by saying that that fond name had belonged, in fact, to the distinguished son of Wilberforce who became "Bishop of Oxford." The main hubbub in the Lords centred round the Buxton Memorial, which was referred to in last week's issue of THE SPHERE, but the debate ranged far and wide, and at one time or another nearly all the statues in Parliament Square, and some outside it, came up for discussion. At the finish of the debate it seemed certain that the Prime Ministers, together with Abraham Lincoln, would remain in the hub of the Empire, and the impression was left that Richard Cœur de Lion would not be welcomed among the political leaders of the nineteenth century. The Duke of Wellington also figured largely in the discussions, but there was perhaps no great enthusiasm for the idea that the worst of statesmen and the best of soldiers should be moved down to Westminster from his lofty perch in front of No. 1, London at Hyde Park Corner.

THE STATUE OF DISRAELI, IN PARLIAMENT SQUARE: When the time comes to remodel "the hub of the Empire," "Dizzie" will still have a place of honour. The Parliament Square Bill came before the Lords just before Christmas, when there was heated discussion about the scheme which is designed for completion in time for the Festival of Britain. Unless Parliament Square is redesigned, Lord Morrison says, it would be difficult to hold the Great Exhibition of 1951 on the South Bank site

THE MAN WHO REPEALED THE CORN LAWS AND THE MAN WHO FREED THE SLAVES ARE ALSO AMONG THE GREAT FIGURES WHICH WILL PROBABLY REMAIN IN PARLIAMENT SQUARE IN ITS REDESIGNED FORM: The Lincoln statue was unveiled by the American statesman, Elihu Root, in 1920. It has for long been much admired, but E. V. Lucas criticised it, and suggested that the chair should be more intimately associated with the man. Lincoln, he thought, was strangely detached from the chair

WILL IT BE PLACED AMONG THE IMMORTALS OF PARLIAMENT SQUARE? The Duke of Wellington's statue at Hyde Park Corner. Lord Iddesleigh has suggested in the House of Lords that if an equestrian statue is thought to be necessary in the Square, surely that of Wellington would be appropriate? It is the only equestrian statue of a Prime Minister in London

THE LORD PROTECTOR PROVIDED HUMOUR IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS DEBATE: *Above*—The statue of Oliver Cromwell to which Lord Mancroft referred in the debate on the Parliament Square (Improvements) Bill. He said that the only two statues in the precincts of Parliament were those of Oliver Cromwell, who spent the whole of his time trying to abolish Parliament, and of Richard Cœur de Lion, who spent the whole of his time trying to avoid summoning it. *On left*—The Burghers of Calais monument in Victoria Tower Gardens. It has been suggested that it should take the place of the equestrian statue of Richard Cœur de Lion

THE STATUE OF RICHARD CŒUR DE LION, WHICH IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED SHOULD BE MOVED FROM PALACE YARD TO PARLIAMENT SQUARE: This caused more heated debate than any other aspect of the redesigning except the Buxton Memorial. When Lord Morrison suggested moving the statue of King Richard, the Earl of Iddesleigh declared that it would be out of place in a garden commemorating nineteenth-century Prime Ministers, and Viscount Samuel also referred to the incongruity of the suggestion. Viscount Mersey said that when Richard Cœur de Lion was dining in Westminster Hall he received a message from the King of France which irritated him, and he remarked: "I will never turn my back on France; I will go there at once." He had the window, against which the statue then was, pulled down, and when he left for France it is recorded that he rode through the open space

160 FIRMS CO-OPERATED TO PRODUCE THIS CAR! The B.R.M., built on a national co-operative basis, undergoes its first test run at Folkingham aerodrome, in Lincolnshire, with Raymond Mays at the wheel. The B.R.M., a 1½-litre, has been built to challenge the Italian and French cars which have taken all the highest honours in Grand Prix motor-racing since the war. The idea of a national car was conceived by Mr. Mays, and the first model has taken three years to design and build. Lord Howe formally unveiled the first of the B.R.M. cars before Raymond Mays took her out on the first public run. £150,000 has already been invested in the British Motor Racing Research Trust in which 160 motoring and engineering firms have co-operated to produce a British car which can challenge the best of France and Italy. A second car is being made and parts for three more are completed. It is hoped that one or two will enter for next year's Grand Prix races, primarily to gain racing experience. The B.R.M., designed by Peter Berthon, has a Vee-16 cylinder 1½-litre engine. The pistons are under 2 ins. in diameter and the stroke is 1·9 ins. Rolls-Royce has helped in developing the two-stage, centrifugal supercharger. Overall weight of the car is 1,900 lbs.

BRITAIN RE-ENTERS THE MOTOR-RACING ARENA

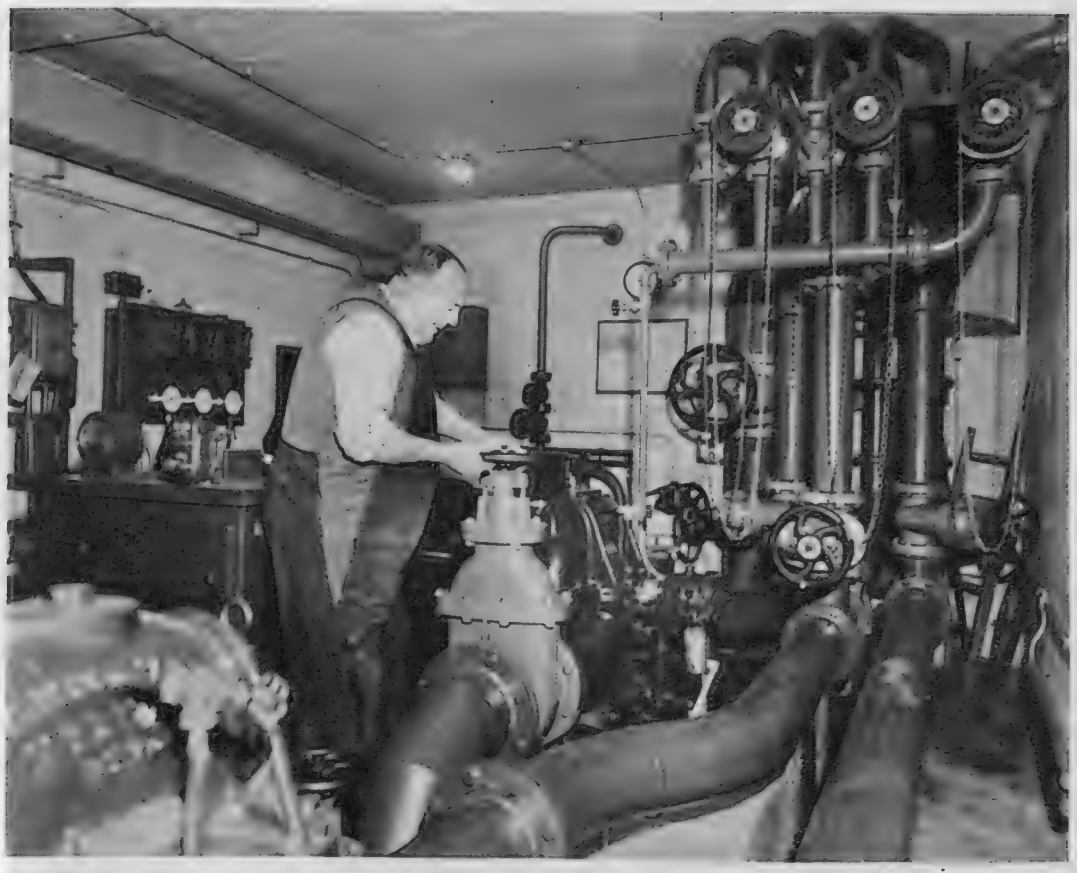
The B.R.M. Makes Its First Public Appearance

THE 200-M.P.H. LOOK: A head-on view of the B.R.M. The speed-range of the engine is 12,000 r.p.m., and brake horse-power over 400. An estimated road speed of 200 m.p.h. could be attained

ON TO THE TRACK: Raymond Mays takes the first B.R.M. out on its first public appearance. He drove her several times round the perimeter track of Folkingham airfield but did not attempt to show off the paces of the new machine. The B.R.M. incorporates many new features, including pneumatic springing developed by Lockheeds, in which the independent front suspension has trailing arms. The five-speed gear-box is in one unit with the rear drive, on the De Dion principle

WATER IN THE WORLD NEWS

LONDON PUMPS IT, LIMBURG BRIDGES IT, AND NEW YORK DOES WITHOUT IT



UNDERNEATH TRAFALGAR SQUARE: Mr. Castleton controls the three pumps which supply the new fountains with 4,000 gallons of water every minute. The water flows back and there is only a small wastage due to wind blowing the spray. Mr. Castleton also controls the new silver floodlighting, which replaced the temporary lighting used when the Square was first reopened. The electrical fittings were specially designed and are watertight as they are all partially or wholly submerged

ONE REASON WHY NEW YORK HAS HAD TO RESORT TO "DRIDAY": This is a section of the partly-dried-up Croton Reservoir in Westchester County. New York's water shortage has been so acute that on one day a week men are asked not to shave, and it has become an offence in New York for a soldier to appear clean-shaven

THE AUTOBAHN BRIDGE ACROSS THE LAHN VALLEY, NEAR LIMBURG, HAS NOW BEEN REBUILT AFTER ELEVEN MONTHS' WORK: The original bridge was blasted by Germans towards the close of the war. It has been reconstructed of steel, but it is only half its former width

A NEW ROAD LINK IN WESTERN GERMANY: The autobahn bridge across the River Lahn at Limburg. In the foreground are ruins of the arches of the former viaduct which the Germans destroyed as they retreated eastwards. Limburg-on-Lahn, in Greater Hesse, lies 22 miles north of Wiesbaden and in the region of Frankfurt

THE FIRST TRAIN IS WELCOMED IN THE "TIP-TOP" MOUNTAIN CUT: This aerial view shows an express halted in the midst of the cutting during the ceremony of inaugurating the new route on the Missouri-Pacific system. This route reduces the gradient markedly. The cut is 150 ft. deep, and there are special levees to take the flow of surface water which, in such a large catchment area, might inundate the track

THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS

The General Structural Work is Now Almost Complete

Unseen by the general public—for the exterior of Parliament does not bear witness to the major disaster which overcame the Commons during the blitz—the new Chamber is taking place, and at latest by the autumn of 1950 it is hoped that the "members of the best club in the world" will return to the traditional site of their labours. A great amount of internal work—testing, furnishing and equipping—has yet to be done, and not the least of these tasks is the installation of bells, amplifiers, clocks and air-conditioning plant in such a way that "the entrails are concealed," as Sir Giles Gilbert Scott so picturesquely phrases it. To assist hearing, one amplifier is being placed between each two seats, a great number of tiny holes have been pierced in the boards of the roof to absorb sound and prevent echo.

The design of the heating and ventilation conforms to the best practice in air-conditioning.

The floor of the new Chamber is solid and the air is introduced from the sides. The inlets consist of openings from ducts immediately under the side galleries and the inlets for the upper portion of the House are through apertures at the sides near roof-level. Vitiated air is extracted through apertures in the roof supplemented by additional extracts near the floor. The system is aimed to give a steady temperature of about 65 degs. F. in the daytime and 70 degs. F. at night.

The floor of the new House has exactly the same dimensions as that in the old Chamber, but a longer roof gives a better proportion, and above the gallery level there is a greater width to give additional seating for strangers and reporters.

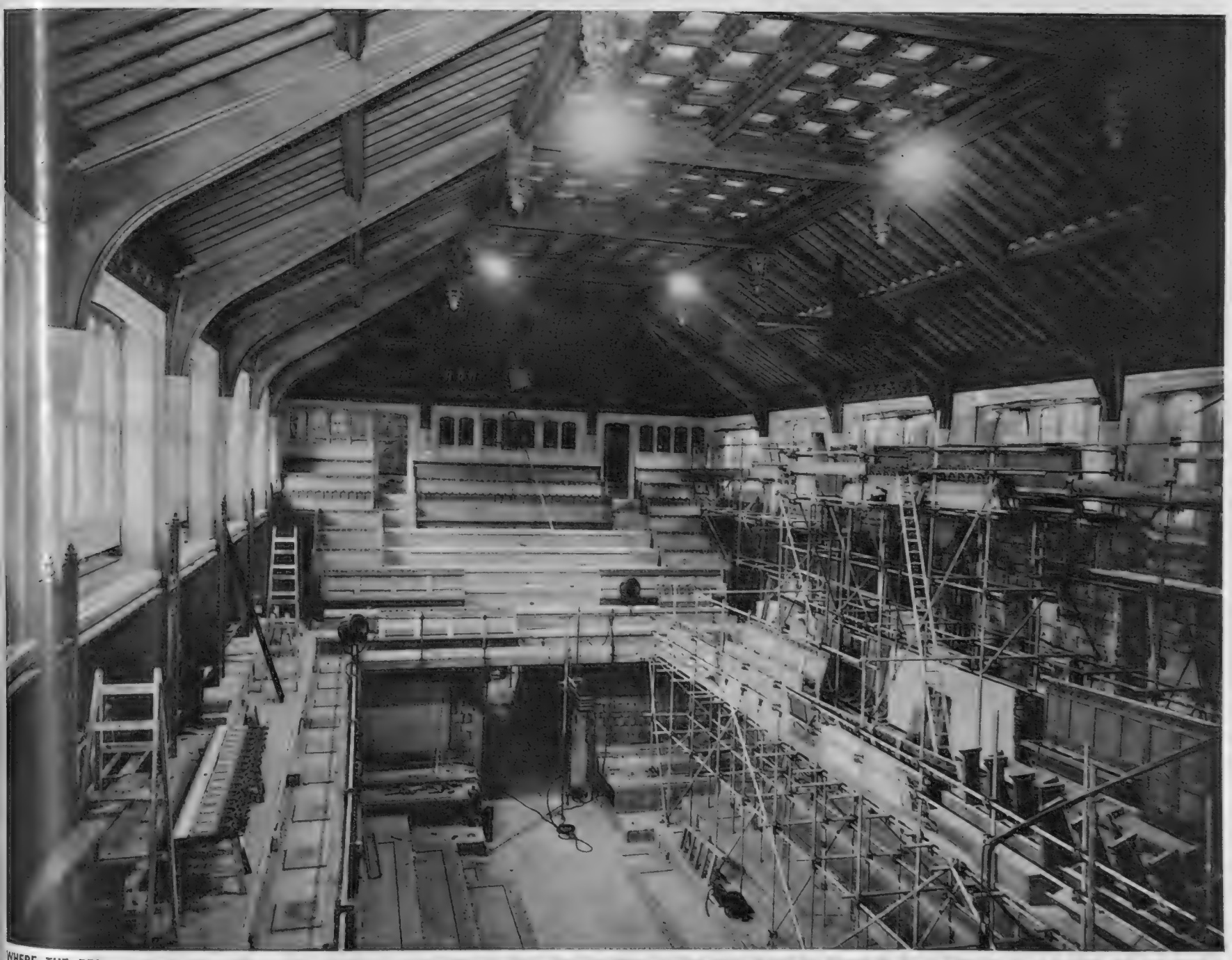
The new buildings, both internally and externally, have been faced with a variety of stones, the principal one being Clipsham, quarried in Rutland. Some of the ancillary accommodation, principally in the Cloisters, will be built of Portland stone with internal facing of Caen stone to match existing work.

THE NEW CHAMBER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS NEARS COMPLETION: This view of the Chamber looks towards the Speaker's Chair and shows some of the furnishings of the Gallery already in position. The Chamber has been designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, and fits precisely within the original limits of the House of Commons Chamber destroyed in the blitz. The architect, however, has achieved better seating accommodation, better conditions of light, ventilation and sound, and at the same time has sought to harmonise the new work with the whole structure of the Palace of Westminster

EXTERIOR STONEWORK AND INTERIOR WOODWORK OF THE NEW HOUSE: *Left*—Mr. W. H. Gardner and his son Kenneth at work on stone pinnacles. *Right*—Some of the fine panelling in the Division Lobby of the House. English oak specially treated to give a cool but pleasing colour has been used throughout the building. The general characteristic of the new oakwork design is a concentration on ornament to form horizontal bands of enrichment with contrasting plain areas. This represents a considerable improvement over the design of the wood and stone detail in the old building, but the Gothic character has been preserved. All the oak used in the House has been stained a grey shade by spraying with sulphate of iron, a chemical which mediæval monks mixed with ink when writing parchment records

THE DISTINGUISHED STRANGERS' GALLERY : Some of the finely-carved woodwork is already in position. There are 165 seats for special strangers, and 161 seats for ordinary strangers. Reporters will also have 161 seats available for them

THE CHURCHILL ARCH : Through this arch, named after Britain's wartime Premier and one of the greatest of all Parliamentarians, Members will enter the new Chamber of the House of Commons. This archway is built from the carefully-preserved though considerably damaged stones which were in this position after the bombing of the old House. Battered and flaked by fire, the stones of Churchill Arch form an effective contrast to the clean facings of the new work which comes from Rutland quarries



WHERE THE BEST CLUB IN THE WORLD WILL ASSEMBLE SOME TIME IN 1950—THE CHAMBER OF THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS AS IT APPEARS TO-DAY WITH THE STRUCTURAL WORK LARGELY COMPLETE AND SOME OF THE FURNISHINGS ALREADY INSTALLED : A feature of the new House will be the gifts of furnishings from the Empire. The Speaker's Chair comes from Australia, the Table of the House from Canada, the Serjeant-at-Arms' chair from Ceylon, and the despatch-boxes from New Zealand. South Africa provides chairs for the Clerk's table and Jamaica the Bar of the House. The Indian Dominion has sent one of the entrance doors and Pakistan the other

FROM LONDON, SCOTLAND AND THE PROVINCES

THE REV. MICHAEL SCOTT RETURNS: The forty-two-year-old champion of the natives of South-West Africa on board the *Queen Elizabeth* at Southampton, where he was met by Mrs. Esther Muirhead and Father G. R. Norton, from Moutu, in Zululand, who worked with Scott in South Africa. Two days after landing at Southampton, the Rev. Michael Scott flew to a peace conference at Sevagram, in the Punjab, where the headquarters of a community which tries to follow the philosophy of Gandhi is situated. Next month he will help draft a case for the International Court questioning the South African Government's right to retain a League of Nations mandate in South-West Africa

A LOOSE HORSE AT SANDOWN: Mr. W. F. Stratton's Compensation scattered spectators after throwing his jockey, A. Fleckner, and jumping the "wires" in Division I of the Regent Novices' Hurdle race. The race, the first of the day, provided another surprise when it was won by Mr. D. C. Ostrer's Sylvain II, with Miss Paget's 2 to 5 on favourite, Aldborough, unplaced

DEMONSTRATING A NEW MACHINE FOR PROJECTING DUMMY PIGEONS OR RABBITS: *On left*—Watching a demonstration of Major Northover's "Skut-Skeet" target. *On right*—The Northover Skut trap in the released position after projecting a "Skut" rabbit. Before the introduction of the "Skut" target and trap, clay pigeons were projected into the air to imitate birds for practice, competitions and, during the war, for training air gunners. For many years a target clay pigeon, clay rabbit, or something that could be used both as a bird or as a rabbit, has been sought. Major H. R. Northover, O.B.E., M.C., who invented the Northover Projector, has achieved what some considered impossible. He has invented and made a target which he calls a "Skut" target which runs along the ground or flies in the air, and has also made a projector to throw the "Skut" as a rabbit, or as a bird. Members of the English, Scotch, Irish and Welsh Clay Pigeon Shooting Association recently took part in a demonstration of the new trap and target and were much impressed with its efficiency

CHRISTMAS FARE FROM THE FLYING ANGEL MISSION: *Left*—The Rev. R. J. Webb, who runs the Mission at Tilbury, brings Missions to Seamen parcels to the crew of the "Ionian Moon." *Centre*—With his assistant, the Rev. Webb waves a greeting to the keepers of the isolated Chapman Lighthouse, in the Thames Estuary; and (*right*) he climbs the narrow iron ladder which is the only means of access to the steel-girdered lighthouse, while Assistant Keeper T. Williams, of Llanfair, and Senior Keeper A. Ritter, of London, haul up their Christmas gifts. The gifts which the Rev. Webb brought to the lighthouse and to the crews of coasters in the Thames Estuary were practical as well as entertaining. Shaving soap, boot polish, chest protectors and potato crisps had to share the honours with books and magazines

LORD WAVELL PRESENTS THE KING'S MEDALS AT THE COUNTY HALL: He is seen with, left to right, Divisional Officer Ernest Smith, of the London Fire Brigade; Chief Superintendent Alexander Robertson, D.C.M.; and Chief Inspector Thomas Percy Perry, of the Metropolitan Police after presenting them with the King's Police and Fire Services Medals for Distinguished Service. The short service at County Hall was the first function attended by Lord Wavell since he succeeded the Duke of Wellington as Lord Lieutenant of the County of London last September

THE BUTCHERS' COMPANY HONOURS AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR: The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Frederick Rowland, and Professor Lawrence Winter, of St. Paul's University, Minnesota (right), listen to a play-back of speeches recorded at the reception given at the Mansion House in Professor Winter's honour after he had been presented with the Scroll of Honour by the Master of the Butchers' Company, Mr. R. C. Hammett, at a ceremony at the Butchers' Hall. Professor Winter is an authority on the subject of the breeding of cattle and pigs, and was responsible for two new breeds of pigs which produce more meat. Also in the picture are Mr. P. O. Nyhus, the Agricultural Attaché at the American Embassy; Mr. R. C. Hammett, and the Clerk of the Court, Mr. N. L. Hall, who is on the left

RULE FOR SCOTLAND: Mr. John MacCormack, who organises the Scottish Convention, reads signatures on the Covenant sheets in his Glasgow office while his secretary, Miss B. Petrie, checks the returned sheets. *On right*—Two more signatures to the Covenant. Starting with a target of 1,000,000 names, signatures came in at a rate of 100,000 a week, and the target was raised to 2,000,000. The Scottish Convention was launched in 1942 with the object of obtaining increased local authority in Scottish affairs. Later, the Scottish National Assembly came into being and demanded home government in 1947. Mr. Attlee referred the question to the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. Woodburn, who said that there was no widespread demand for it. Last month, the Assembly launched their Covenant, in which Scots pledge to do everything in their power to obtain a Scottish Parliament "in all loyalty to the Crown, and within the framework of the United Kingdom." Its success was immediate. The movement has gathered considerable strength from the ever-increasing control in Whitehall

SUNSHINE ROOF" ON THE BAKERLOO LINE: The "Vista" car is an experimental conversion of a standard Underground carriage and permits standing passengers to see out of the windows without having to bend double. Curved panes extend the normal windows upwards, giving 3½ ft. of glass from seat to roof, and large "peep-holes" have been cut in the recesses in which the doors slide. The result is that on the open sections of the line the passengers have an observation-car view

A TYPICAL PEASANT HOME IN THE POVERTY-STRICKEN CALABRIAN VILLAGE OF SAN LORENZO BELLIZZI : In one room, 12 ft. by 15 ft., live ten persons and a pig. This grandmother has in her arms the latest child of the impoverished family

THE VILLAGE OF SAN LORENZO BELLIZZI, ABOUT 2,700 FT. ABOVE SEA-LEVEL, IN THE MOUNTAINS OF CALABRIA, HAS DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE OF THE REST OF ITALY AND SET ITSELF UP AS A REPUBLIC : *Left*—A general view of the little village, as poverty-stricken as any in Calabria, which has emulated San Marino. *Right*—Women of San Lorenzo seated outside their houses in the pale winter sunshine. It was six months ago at a village meeting that the peasants declared their independence, and also the fact that they intended to seize all the great estates in the vicinity. A Government official came up to San Lorenzo by mule-back, in order to talk the peasants out of this idea, but the promises he made then have not been kept, and San Lorenzo is determined to push ahead with its plan of achieving independence of Italian taxation

SAN MARINO HAS A RIVAL

The Poverty-Stricken Village of San Lorenzo Bellizzi, Calabria, has Declared Itself a Republic

IN POVERTY-STRICKEN SAN LORENZO : *Left*—This is the main street of the village Republic. *Right*—A peasant family dining in their single room. The meal consists of bread flavoured with dried pepper and washed down with water. The family pig can be seen hunting for scraps

The determination of the villagers of San Lorenzo Bellizzi to set up a Republic, an ambition which they will probably never be allowed to achieve, draws attention, as much as any other single piece of news of recent months, to the stricken people of Calabria. San Lorenzo typifies the utter poverty and desperation of this Southern province of Italy, which, despite promises by the score from the de Gasperi Government (which draws its support from Italy's huge landowners), is no better off than it was at the end of the war. San Lorenzo is a village in the mountains which can only be reached by mule-back. The people say that their only contact with the Italian Government is when the tax-collector makes his regular visit up the winding track. Now the villagers, in common with villagers in every part of Calabria, are preparing to take over the great estates by force. In some places where the ground has lain fallow, this action has met with the sanction of the Government, but in many parts of Italy the peasants are now bent on more high-handed measures. Recently Premier de Gasperi went to Calabria to talk to the peasants. He promised reform. "I am no revolutionary," said he, "but I cry woe betide landowners who do not heed the call of the present hour." The peasants remain sceptical, and they will believe in a brighter future when they see some positive action.

San Lorenzo remains perhaps the most sceptical of all, and it may be that one day when the tax gatherer climbs the mountain track and seeks to levy his dues upon the community, he will find that the fierce Republicans of the village have indeed barred his way and set up their sovereign state.

The pictures on this page give some idea of the utter poverty of this mountain village. The people, as in every part of Calabria, are sub-contractors of the land from men who in turn are tenants to the big absentee landowners. The system is a pernicious one, as tenant and sub-contractor must each make a good profit. The land is thus robbed of all its heart, and it is little wonder that in such villages as San Lorenzo whole families are found living in a single room.

THE MUSICAL HAREWOODS

The Earl and Countess at their London Home, Friary Court, St. James's Palace

THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF HAREWOOD AT THE PIANO IN THEIR LONDON HOME AT FRIARY COURT, ST. JAMES'S: Both are accomplished musicians, and the Countess, daughter of a Vienna musician, seemed destined for a career as a concert artiste until her engagement and marriage this year. Their first meeting was at Lowestoft, when they were introduced by the Earl of Harewood's great friend Mr. Benjamin Britten, the most prolific composer of the present day

LORD HAREWOOD READS OVER THE MANUSCRIPT OF AN ARTICLE: He is music critic of the "New Statesman and Nation," and seldom misses any important musical occasion in London. Beside him the Earl has a copy of his friend Benjamin Britten's "The Rape of Lucretia," which was first presented during the Glyndebourne Festival in July 1946

LADY HAREWOOD POSES BESIDE HER PIANO: The Countess is wearing a silver-spotted, dark green evening dress. *On left*—The Earl and Countess of Harewood together at Friary Court. All these pictures were taken by David Gurney, the barrister-photographer son of Sir Hugh and Lady Gurney

HALF-WAY THROUGH the 20TH CENTURY

A Glance Back Through the Years

By CHARLES GRAVES

I HAD always thought that the turn of the century was January 1, 1901. However, it seems to be the fashion to say that to-morrow, January 1, 1950, is the half-way house. Certainly most people will feel a sigh of relief that the Frightful Forties have come to a close on the presumption that the Fifties will be less austere.

If you look back over the past forty-nine years it becomes quite evident (*a*) that there has been more change than in any other equivalent period of time; (*b*) both major world wars were started by the Germans and will probably be known as the German Wars by future historians; and (*c*) that the working classes have emerged permanently into the forefront of politics instead of making short, bloody interruptions on the political stage as in previous centuries.

Medicine has probably made the greatest advance of all. According to medical statistics, every male child born in 1900 enjoyed on an average the prospect of living to be forty-eight years of age. To-day he enjoys the prospect of sixty years. Females live longer, and the corresponding figures for them are an expectation of sixty-four years to-day compared with fifty-two years in 1900. The greatest saving of life has, of course, occurred in its first few years; the death rate in the first year of life being a quarter of what it was half a century ago, though the death rate at sixty has undergone relatively little improvement. Progress in cancer and rheumatism has been very slow, but the death rate amongst mothers owing to childbirth is about a third of what it was in 1900, while the death rate from diphtheria is about one-fortieth of what it was in children under fifteen, and the death rate from all forms of T.B. is less than one-third. X-rays and radium had just been discovered in 1900, but they were exceedingly dangerous to handle. In 1906 vitamins were discovered. In 1910 Erleich discovered 606. In addition, we have had penicillin, insulin, and all the sulpha drugs. D.D.T. is another important milestone.

Motoring had, of course, already started before 1900, though motor-coaches did not appear until 1905. The speed record stood at 39·24 m.p.h. in 1900, as compared with John Cobb's record of 393·8 in 1947.

In 1900 there were no real professions open to the modern woman except possibly nursing. The most advanced young people never smoked, were teetotal and wore no make-up. The average home girl who did the flowers was chaperoned to dances and parties. The daughters of the working class worked in factory or in domestic service or behind shop counters for infinitesimal salaries. Then came the suffragettes, followed by World War I and the introduction of W.A.A.C.s and W.R.N.S.s and W.A.A.F.s and Land Army. By the end of 1918 there were nearly 2,000,000 women employed in processes formerly regarded as for men only.

At the beginning of the century, well-to-do people lived in big houses with large numbers of servants. To-day the mansions have become flats, entertaining has lost all its ceremonial, and marriage has lost its security. In 1947 there were over 60,000 divorces in England and Wales, compared with 550 in 1900. The growing use of preventatives has reduced families to an average of two children instead of eight or more.

Some of the greatest advances have, of course, been made in methods of human destruction, with the introduction of flying and motor transport, not to mention guided projectiles, the Schnorkel-equipped submarine and the atom bomb. As for flying, the first flights in a heavier-than-air machine under its own power took place on December 17, 1903, at Kittyhawk. Just as I can personally remember seeing my first motor-car in 1903 on Wimbledon Common and my first aeroplane in 1911 flying over Wimbledon Station, so I saw last week (also at Wimbledon) my first glimpse of the Brabazon I. Actually it was not until 1908 that real interest in aeroplanes was exhibited. The reason for it was Henry Farman flying a French-built Voisin Biplane over a circular course of one kilometre. France in those days was well ahead of the rest of the world in light engineering, whether it affected aeroplanes or motor-cars. The names of Santos Dumont, Bleriot, Paulhan and André Beaumont are outstanding, together with that of Lord Northcliffe, who spent thousands of pounds in encouraging aviation. It was another £10,000 offered by Lord Northcliffe which encouraged Captain John Alcock and Lieutenant Whitten Brown to fly the Atlantic in 1919 in a converted bomber, powered by two Rolls-Royce engines. Largely thanks to Lord Northcliffe, it was Britain which took the lead in modern aviation, starting the world's first regular daily air service for passengers—on August 25, 1919, when Lieutenant Bill Lawford flew one passenger and some freight from London to Paris. Handley Page Transport came on the scene soon after, with cross-Channel services to Brussels and Amsterdam. Other firms entered the fray. This inevitably led to an amalgamation, and in 1924 four firms were merged into Imperial Airways. To-day the 36-seater, 500-m.p.h. Comet leads the world in fast modern civilian aircraft.

In the world of sport, the popularity of Association Football, originally confined to public schools, has been the chief feature of the past forty-nine years. To-day, a million people watch soccer every week. In horse-racing, the introduction of the American forward seat and crouching position for the jockey, introduced by Tod Sloan, revolutionised race riding, and Danny Maher rode the Derby winner in 1903, 1905 and 1906. In lawn tennis there has been little change except for the clothes of women who, until 1919, played in ankle-length skirts and high-necked white blouses. Then came Suzanne Lenglen, with her one-piece, sleeveless, knee-length dress. In 1900, W. G. Grace's large black beard was still in its prime. The googly had not been invented by Bosanquet. Bodyline bowling had not been introduced. Rugger has scarcely altered. In boxing the chief difference has been the vast increase in purse money and the death of the National Sporting Club, which exercised a monopoly over all the boxing championships, staging them for members only in their theatre of fewer than 2,000 seats in Covent Garden.

Of all games and sports, golf has developed the furthest and most rapidly. Once again I can recall at the age of six seeing at Wimbledon my father's first Haskell—a rubber-cored golf ball. I think it was J. H. Taylor who first used a rubber-cored ball in the Open Championship, and walked away with it. Since 1900 golf has spread from Scotland all over England and Wales. (It is astonishing how very few clubs there were in the South in 1900. Offhand, I would say about two dozen at the outside.) Not only have golf balls completely altered the game, but also the introduction of steel shafts after 1919 has made a complete monkey out of almost every golf course in the country. The introduction of steel shafts was primarily due to the lack of good hickory, but golfers soon discovered that they lasted longer and did not lose their "give" so soon. Next came the grading of clubs. The nice old-fashioned words like mashie, niblick, spoon and baffie have given place to the stylised numbers and instead of carrying half-a-dozen clubs in his bag, the present-day golfer usually has fourteen. All this has meant that many thousands of pounds had to be spent by the various golf clubs in lengthening their holes and making them more difficult to cope with the advancing skill and improved clubs of their members.

Radio, of course, had not been invented at the start of the century, though on December 12, 1901, Marconi received the first tremor in his hut at Poldhu, and nine years later received the first radio-telegram direct from Canada to Italy. In radio, also, Lord Northcliffe was greatly interested, and I remember as a cub reporter on the *Evening News* being sent to listen to Dame Nellie Melba broadcasting a concert from The Hague. The result was negligible and the B.B.C. did not begin its functions at Savoy Hill until January 1, 1927. Those were the days of Sir John Reith. Television started just before the war under the control of Gerald Cock and Cecil Madden. Incidentally I still have my pre-war set.

Already it is quite apparent that as soon as programmes are continuous, television will put ordinary radio right into the background.

The cinema was already in existence in 1900, though films were either short, flickering newsreels or equally short, flickering trick photography. It was not until 1903 that the first story film, *The Great Train Robbery*, was produced. It ran about 9 mins. By 1914, England led the world in films, but it was good-bye to all that when World War I began. I remember very well seeing the first talkie—in 1927. This was a brief newsreel and preceded *The Jazz Singer*. In fact, it was not until the autumn of 1928 that Jolson's picture brought vast crowds to the Regal, Marble Arch, and there was free champagne for the stalls and circle patrons on the opening night. The first British talkie, *Blackmail*, was directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

There is no space here to refer to art or the theatre, save perhaps to mention the sturdy growth of the Old Vic, associated as it is with such magic names as Olivier, Richardson and Hardwicke. As the grandson of a bishop, however, I cannot help drawing attention to the astonishing drop in religion in this country since 1900. This has in the past been largely due to the growing popularity of the motor-car and of healthy, outdoor games on Sunday. When most people worked a six-day week it was only natural that attendances at church would decline. Now, however, that most people work a five-day week the opportunity is once again present, provided that the religious leaders of this country can inject some kind of enthusiasm into their life's work. To-day, Christianity is a minority movement and by the end of the century will either have shrunk to the same proportions as it had under the Roman Emperors or will make a really decisive advance. It certainly cannot remain as it is.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS—HOLLYWOOD VETERANS RE-EMERGE FOR AN ANNIVERSARY: *Left*—Cecil B. de Mille (wearing glasses), most celebrated of the early producers, chatting with Mr. and Mrs. William Farnum at the Hollywood party held to mark the thirty-sixth anniversary of the Hollywood film industry's first feature film, "The Squaw Man," produced in 1913. *Right*—Claire Windsor, Reginald Denny and Mae Murray were also at the party

MORE HEROES AND HEROINES OF THE EARLY DAYS OF HOLLYWOOD: *Left*—Winifred Kingston, who appeared in Hollywood's first feature film, "The Squaw Man," and Theda Bara, a screen siren of the '20's, seen together at "The Squaw Man" anniversary party. *Centre*—Cecil B. de Mille with Cleo Ridgley and Anita King, two more of the early screen favourites. *Right*—Ramon Novarro, handsome leading man of the '20's, now a prosperous estate agent, seen with Arline Pretty, another star of yesteryear. Novarro's greatest role was in the screen version of Lew Wallace's "Ben Hur"

HERE COME THE CLOWNS

Augustes and Whitefaces at this Year's Olympia Circus

Between April and September 1949 Cyril Mills saw 140 circuses and booked eight new acts for this year's circus at Olympia. They include twelve polar bears from Sweden, six sea-lions from Switzerland and six "Zeeland" horses from Holland. There are also four new aerial acts from Los Angeles, San Diego, France and Italy. But the old regulars are still among the most popular acts, and, of these, the Liberty horses and the clowns have a never-failing appeal. There are fifteen clowns and "Augustes" (the clowns who wear the grotesque costumes and take the falls as distinct from the "whitefaces," who wear the fine clothes). The Coco family figures large among the "Augustes." Born in Latvia, Coco has six children, of whom three—Michael, Sascha and Tamara—are with him in this year's circus. Michael Coco's 3½-year-old son Graham will also be following his father and grandfather in the business. Grandfather Coco is naturalised and served during the war as a corporal in the British Army.

SOME OF THE FIFTEEN CLOWNS OF BERTRAM MILLS' CIRCUS AT OLYMPIA: The men who are closest to the hearts of the greater part of the circus audience gather for a group photograph. In the centre is Coco, with, on his left, his son Michael Coco. Coco began life as an aerial artiste. He became a clown after an accident in Riga, thirty years ago, when he fell from his trapeze into the bandstand

FROM SCHOOL TO THE SAWDUST RING: Fifteen-year-old Peter Morrissey was a Liverpool schoolboy. He now enters the ring as a clown after five-weeks training

THREE GENERATIONS OF "COCOS": Michael Coco and Coco teach Michael's three-and-a-half-year-old son Graham some of the tricks of the trade. Michael Coco also appears in a Trampoline (spring table) act with his sister Tamara and brother Sascha in this year's circus at Olympia. Other circus pictures will be found on pp. 494-95 of this issue

GREATEST OF THEM ALL: Grock plays patience at his villa near San Remo while awaiting confirmation of an engagement to tour Germany next month. The famous clown, who is now in his seventieth year, said that he must still work because he was ruined by the war, most of his fortune being invested in Italy. Although making "positively his last appearance" in October, he cannot afford to retire. Neither can he come to London, because when last here, 25 years ago, the income-tax authorities claimed he owed them £4,500

The World of Books—By VERNON FANE

FICTION DERIVED FROM THE BIBLE

Proves a Source of Best Sellers from the American Continent

THE writing of fiction upon biblical subjects appears to have become a major American industry. It also seems to be a highly profitable one. Mr. Lloyd Douglas, for instance, has broken all records with his sales of *The Robe* and *The Big Fisherman*, while Mr. Fulton Oursler has been leading the American best-selling field for some time with *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. Now we have a novel "based on the life of St. Paul," THE APOSTLE, by Sholem Asch (Macdonald. 15s.). Opening on a day seven weeks after the Crucifixion, it tells in meticulous detail the long story of the turbulent life of probably the most powerful and potent force in Christianity, apart from its Founder. As well as sticking closely to historical text, Mr. Sholem Asch crowds his story with an enormous cast drawn from the diverse and colourful characters who, in the first century, lived in Palestine, Syria and Asia Minor. These he handles with considerable skill and erudition, but through it all we never lose sight of the dominant character of the energetic young Pharisee who, on the road to Damascus, became Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. It is a very long book, and it requires close attention from the reader, but, on the whole, it must be said to come off as a *tour de force*.

GENTLE GREAVES, by Ernest Raymond (Cassell. 12s. 6d.), is not quite so hefty, but is still a very long novel, running to more than 250,000 words. Briefly, it is the story of how a young man with the searing memory of a public humiliation as a schoolboy, rose above it, as well as other disabilities, to become Sir Theodore Allan Mourne, the head of a successful publishing house. While he was yet young, and Edward was on the throne, and Victoria an omnipresent memory, Allan Mourne fell in love with a child-hood friend called Gentle, only to lose her in painful circumstances to an unworthy doctor called Drury. The marriage was a failure and ended in tragedy, and Gentle seeks her true love, has a child by him, and dies. All this happens about the time of the First World War, and the novel begins with Sir Theodore in a large bombed house in a London square after the Second World War, setting down all that happened to him in that house, and its inhabitants in the period between. This is a theme which might daunt a novelist without Mr. Ernest Raymond's confidence and skill. With a blend of sentiment, humour, irony and irradiated by the light of pure goodness, it is a fine example of the art of a good craftsman and a very human writer.

ROOT OUT OF DRY GROUND, by Argye M. Briggs (Hodder and Stoughton. 10s. 6d.), is another successful American novel, having sold 175,000 copies over there. Its success is easy to understand, since Miss Briggs takes her story and her characters from the poor, squalid, dirty, reckless people who live in the south-west. In some respects they have an affinity with those poor whites in the Southern States who have been the foundation of so much realistic American fiction. Realism, meaning toughness and squalor for their own sake, is not this author's *genre*. It is all there, but it is woven into the story of Jamsie, a cripple, loved by her delinquent parents to beg on the city streets, and Clarence, a motherless waif who became Jamsie's special charge. Miss Briggs can be just as sentimental as Dickens could be, but, somehow, spiritual values shine through, and on the whole the reading of this novel must be adjudged a fine experience.

During the most of the last half of the eighteenth century Richard Hayes, a typical Kentish yeoman, lived at Owletts, in the Parish of Cobham. From 1760 until 1775 he kept a diary, and since the community in which he lived was close knit and almost self-contained, it is as much a record of his village as it is of his family and friends. A YEOMAN OF KENT (Constable. 12s. 6d.) is by Mr. Ralph Arnold, who is himself indigenous to the neighbourhood. Using the diary of Richard Hayes as material, Mr. Arnold completes a portrait of the village of Cobham with a wealth of detail and with impeccable taste.

To the other extremity of England we go in THE WEST IN ENGLISH HISTORY (Hodder and Stoughton. 10s. 6d.). This is a collection of essays originally broadcast through the B.B.C.'s West Regional organisation, which "speaks most of its time to the 4,000,000 people who live in the western peninsula of England." They range from a study of King Alfred, by G. M. Young, to a piece by John Betjeman on *Victorian Provincial Life*, which follows naturally on an essay on *The Industrial Revolution in Cornwall*, by F. L. Harris. The whole is summed up by a chapter in which

ALE GARLANDS IN THE CITY—THE REVIVAL OF A MEDIEVAL TAVERN CUSTOM: Charlie Wiggins, the Beadle of the Ward of the Tower of London, reading the proclamation outside the historic Tiger Tavern on Tower Hill, before the Lord Mayor, heralded by trumpeters, hoisted the ale garland as a symbol of the quality of the brew sold within

Dr. A. L. Rowse discusses "the extraordinary richness and diversity of the contribution the West has made to English history and the life of the country."

Tommy Handley was a fine comedian, but he was something more. Few men in our time had so surely captured the affection of an entire nation, to whom the news of his untimely death came as a sense of personal loss. It is fitting that the memory of this warm-hearted man should be enshrined in a memoir by his great friend and collaborator, Ted Kavanagh. TOMMY HANDLEY (Hodder and Stoughton. 7s. 6d.) is as lively and volatile as an Itma script.

Major Desmond Chapman-Huston calls THE LAMP OF MEMORY (Skeffington. 18s.) "a biographical digression." Since it begins with the opening of the century, and since no Irishman can write of his childhood in that distressful country without nostalgic charm, and since the enchantment of London in the years before the First World War is a positive emotion, this book has almost everything in its favour. Added to this, Major Chapman-Huston has memories of a great many famous people in the social and political world, as well as soldiers, writers, musicians.

Boyhood memories also furnish the main theme of A SOLO IN TOM-TOMS, by Gene Fowler (Saturn Press. 10s. 6d.). This book reads like the first volume of a larger autobiography, for it leaves off somewhere about the year 1920, when Mr. Gene Fowler met his father for the first time. "The world seldom had seen him, nor he the world, during his thirty years of hermitage on the high slope of Squaw Mountain." Although the meeting was in Manhattan, the father and the boy had lived all their lives in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Mr. Gene Fowler is, of course, the biographer of John Barrymore, as well as being a novelist and a journalist well known in America. To his own story he brings the same colourful touch and racy style, and there emerges from this book an inimitable picture of life in a corner of the U.S.A. which has been very little written about.

FREUD: HIS LIFE AND HIS MIND, by Helen Walker Puner (Grey Walls Press. 12s. 6d.), is a biography and, as its title implies, one on an ambitious scale. The influence of Dr. Sigmund Freud on his own time is a study which remains to be written. Miss Puner, writing his life, and in attempting to explain the man, sets herself a formidable task. Miss Pluner attempts to trace the development of his various forms of psycho-analysis and the formulation of the Œdipus complex through Freud's own relationship with hisfather. It is all set down competently, but, even when one has sorted out the jargon, somehow the conclusions do not ring true.

THE AFRICA OF ALBERT SCHWEITZER, by Charles R. Joy and Melvin Arnold (A. and C. Black. 15s.), is a beautifully produced book on art paper with illustrations almost on every page. In a sense it is the kind of thing the film people call a "documentary" and the authors of it lived with Dr. Schweitzer and shared his daily life at his hospital at Lambaréné. The great philosopher himself contributes an essay on "Our Task in Colonial Africa." This book is a worthy tribute to a great man and a great cause.

THE GRAND PEREGRINATION, by Maurice Collis (Faber. 25s.), is also beautifully produced and finely illustrated. It is the first biography in any language of Fernão Mendes Pinto, probably the most remarkable of all Portuguese adventurers. He travelled all over Asia in the middle of the sixteenth century, and had returned home before the rest of the great Elizabethans were out of their cradles. Working on Pinto's own autobiography Mr. Maurice Collis brings the whole fascinating story vibrantly alive.

MADE IN ITALY, by Igor Markevitch (Harvill Press. 10s. 6d.), is a study in what some people have already come to believe is a modern Italian renaissance. "Everybody," says Sacheverell Sitwell, "who has interest in the recovery of Europe should read it." Markevitch himself is a modern musician of some standing and fame on the Continent. During the last part of the war he lived in Italy and fought with the partisans against the Germans. This is one of the rare post-war books to sound a note of hope and to point a positive path for the future.

ECHOES of PETERLOO

And the Days of the Star Chamber in Sir Gerald Hurst's Latest *Lincoln's Inn Essays*

Sir Gerald Hurst, K.C., the engaging and scholarly historian of Lincoln's Inn, has explored a whole new range of episodes and stories suggested by his study of the Inn's records, and in LINCOLN'S INN ESSAYS (Constable and Co. 12s. 6d.) he once again ranges far and wide and never discursively: always. like a good lawyer, extracting the pith of the matter. Sir Gerald, who has sat in five Parliaments for a division of Manchester, is perhaps most interesting in his presentation of the legal aspect of Peterloo—the Manchester Massacre of 1819, when some 60,000 people who had assembled for a demonstration on Parliamentary Reform, were involved in the terrible charge of the 15th Hussars and the Yeomanry, eleven losing their lives and about 600 being injured. Sir Gerald dwells in detail on the coroner's inquests, which, he says, were a mere farce, especially so that on the body of John Lees, son of an Oldham cotton spinner, who died of sabre wounds on that fatal and terrible day. This inquest was never even concluded, but the printed transcript of the evidence now preserved in Lincoln's Inn Library testifies to the vicious inhumanity of the soldiery in the face of a peaceable populace. That the latter were in holiday mood was evidenced by the mass of broken musical instruments left lying on the battlefield after the Hussars had galloped among the defenceless men, women and children. Eventually the inquest, which had been marked by many irregularities on the part of the coroner, was quashed. The stress and strain of the fight for a verdict seemed to be in vain, and the closely-printed Lincoln's Inn record, in all 632 pages, apparently ends in futility and discomfiture for the Reformers. Sir Gerald does not accept this view, however. All those events, he says, were milestones in the long struggle to give to Manchester and the other large towns of Britain the representation in Parliament them denied them, but enjoyed by dozens of rotten and depopulated boroughs. Sir Gerald devotes another essay to William Prynne, the fanatical Puritan and victim of the Star Chamber, who twice had his ears chopped in the pillory, the first time for writing "a scandalous and libellous book against the State, the King and all his people." Prynne was a learned and acute lawyer, but he is shown also as a Bible-slamming Sabbatarian who regarded all theatres as shops of Satan, pictures in church as idolatrous and carnal, and all who took part in dancing as lewd and lascivious. Prynne had courage, however. He fought the foes of liberty, and Sir Gerald gives some good reasons why his fellow-lawyers should forgive much that is repulsive in the Puritan's conduct and character.

Dr. L. D. A. Hussey was the friend and associate of Sir Ernest Shackleton. He was meteorologist in the Antarctic Expedition of 1914-16, when the *Endurance* was crushed in the Polar ice, and he again accompanied Shackleton on his last expedition. In SOUTH WITH SHACKLETON (Sampson Low. 8s. 6d.) Dr. Hussey tells the story of those great journeys, simply, movingly and dramatically. Shining through every episode, and every page, is the author's vast admiration for Shackleton as a leader and as a man, as the highest type of Englishman, who thought not so much in terms of success and failure, victory and defeat, as in travelling hopefully and steadfastly. Apart from being a wonderful personal tribute from one man to another, *South With Shackleton* is a first-rate adventure story.

For a long while past the literature of wine has borne the imprint of the personality of the late Professor Saintsbury, whose *Notes from a Cellar Book* has set the style for a host of volumes such as Stephen Gwynn's erudite treatise on Burgundy and the books of André Simon. As a welcome change comes T. A. Layton's CHOOSE YOUR WINE (Duckworth. 7s. 6d.). Mr. Layton had the good fortune in 1928 to win the scholarship of the Worshipful Company of Vintners, and as a result was able to spend a year abroad working and studying in wine-growing districts. He writes not only as a wine-lover but as a practical man with a wealth of knowledge of fining, filtering, blending, bottling and labelling. He is full of good practical advice on how to "create a cellar" in these cellarless days.

The Heather Edition of THE WORKS OF THE BRONTËS (Allan Wingate. Six volumes, 63s. net) has just made its welcome appearance. Volume No. 1, with Phyllis Bentley's admirable introduction, contains Charlotte's *Stories from Angria*, *The Professor*, and also the poems of all three sisters. *Jane Eyre*, *Shirley*, *Villette*, *Wuthering Heights* and *Agnes Gray* (one volume), and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* make up the other five volumes.

Mr. S. F. A. Coles has since 1936 travelled some 10,000 miles in Sweden. As a result of his journeyings he has written THE LOVELY LAND (Chapman and Hall. 15s.). It is a truly lyrical interpretation, one befitting a poet and scholar. Mr. Coles is a good guide. He neither seeks nor avoids places of popular resort, like Saltsjobaden, or remote coasts like the extreme western province of Dalsland. He takes them all in his easy-going stride.

Two additions to the Wood Engravers Series are THOMAS BEWICK, by Graham Reynolds, and ROBERT GIBBINGS, by Thomas Balston (Art and Technics. 6s. each). Bewick's animal portraiture is a delight, and his vignettes give a fascinating record of life in the late eighteenth century.

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The inventive spirit of Hughes is still alive in Britain today. The electricity industry, for instance, is continually developing new appliances which increase the output of our factories and farms and make life easier in the home. On the electricity supply side, too, marvels are being done to overcome the post-war power shortage. Already electricity may be used freely at all times except at peak hours. Soon the nation will be able to enjoy even greater benefits from the new electrical age.

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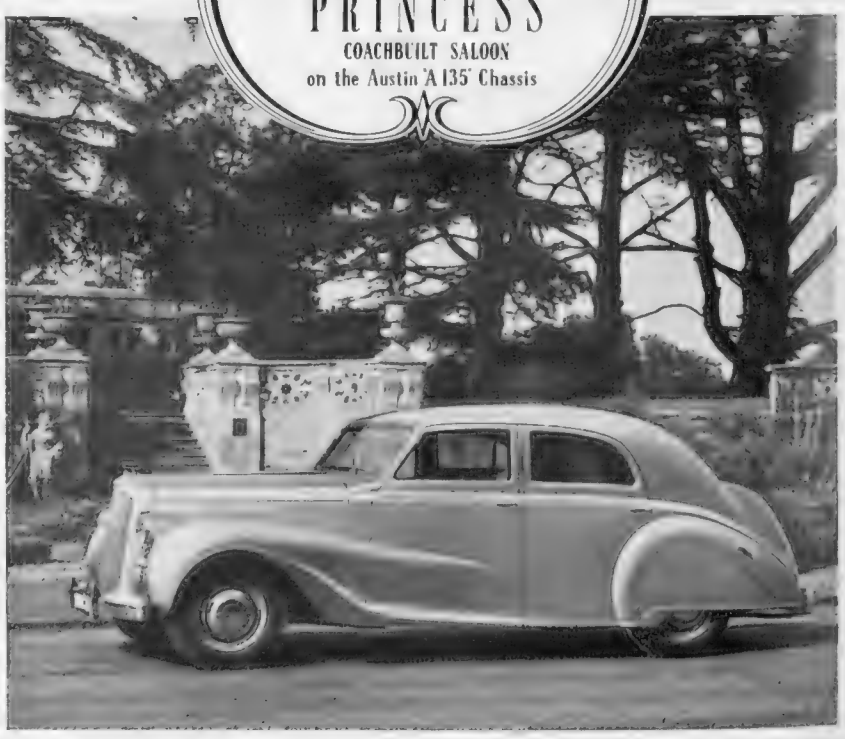

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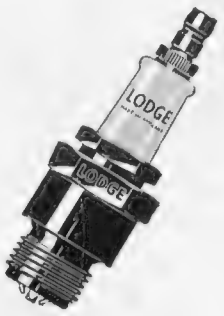

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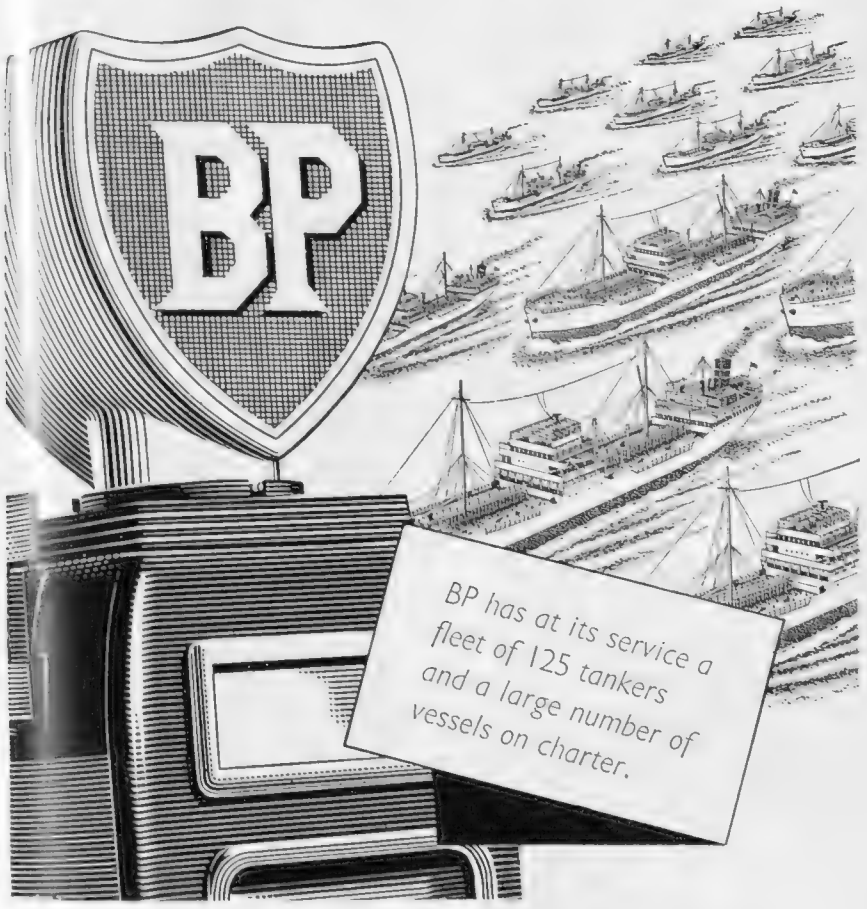

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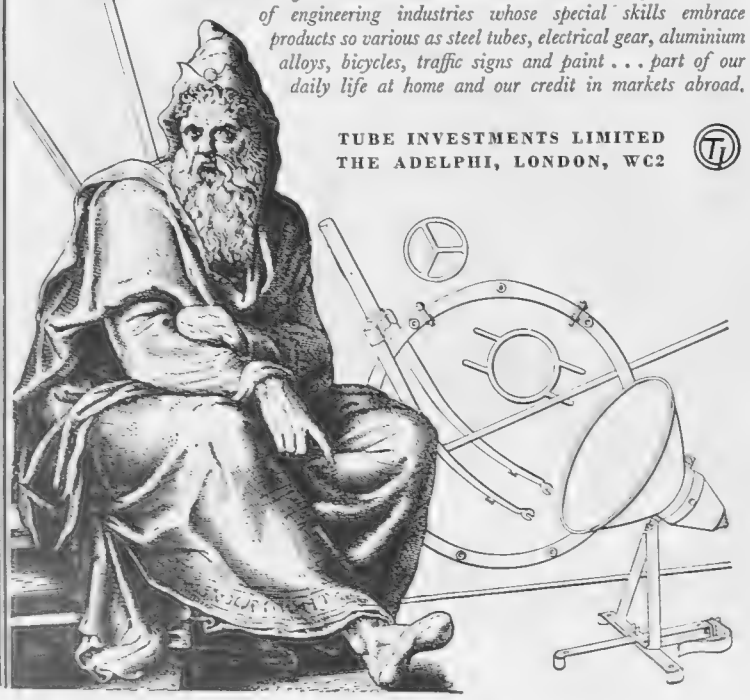

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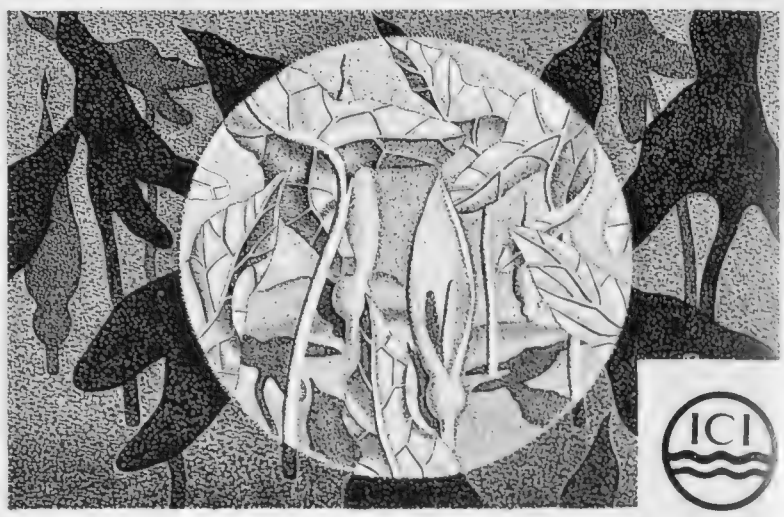
The first crude forerunner of the infra-red photograph was made just over a century ago by Sir John Herschel. He exposed to the sun's rays a piece of blackened paper, the reverse of which had been moistened with alcohol. But during the decade following the end of the first world war investigations by W. J. Pope and W. H. Mills and their collaborators at Cambridge contributed greatly to the systematic study and preparation of infra-red sensitising dyes.



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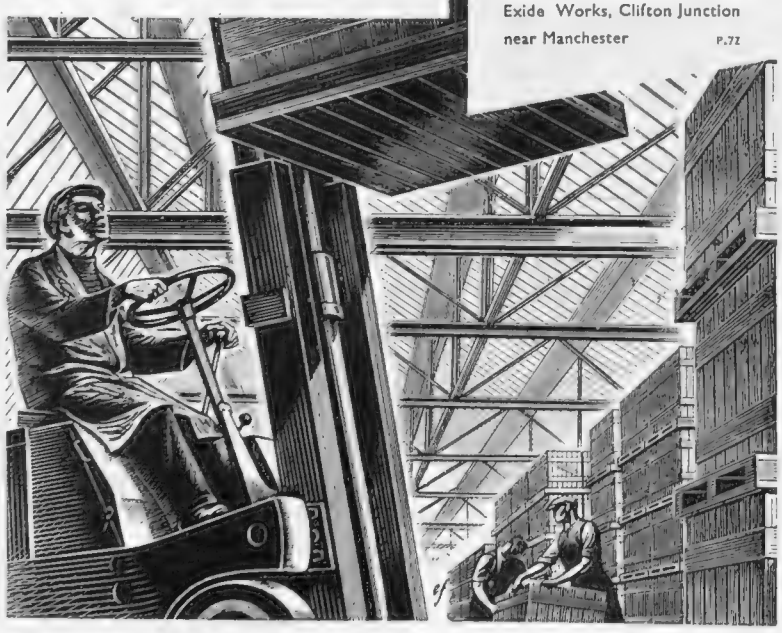

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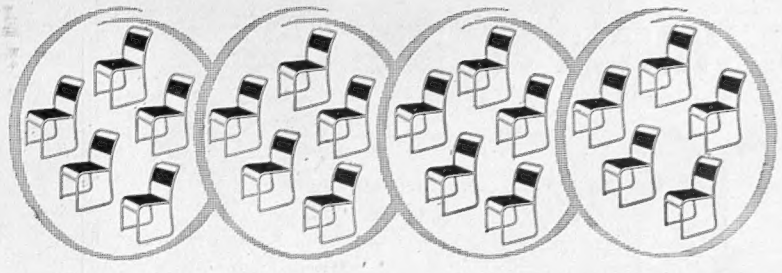

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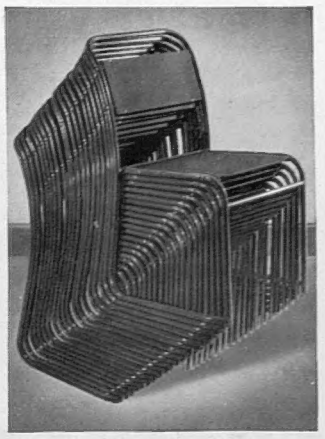

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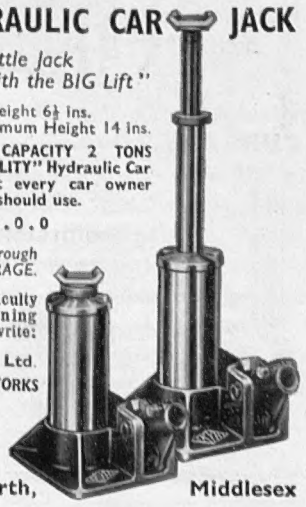

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